Comelec denounced over party-list blunder

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2001 ★ 68 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 119 ₱15

Cool, gushes Buan's child of pa's release

BY BLANCHE RIVERA, ANDREA ECHAVEZ, DELFIN MALLARI AND JOEL JABAL

"IT'S going to be a cool summer," gushed 12-year-old Noelle Jenina as the New People's Army is set to release at noon today her father Army Maj. Noel Buan after 19 months in captivity.

COOL/ A6

ESTRADA DEFIANT

'Go ahead, arrest me'

BY GERRY T. PAGHARION
PDI Visayas Bureau
AND NORMAN BORDADORA

ROXAS CITY—Joseph Estrada is in a defiant mood.

Asked yesterday about his possible arrest with the filing on Wednesday of plunder and other charges against him before the Sandiganbayan, he said: "Go ahead, arrest me (*E di arestohin nila*)."

The disgraced ex-president appeared unfazed by the filing of charges, saying that he believed he could "still recover" and that he was leaving his fate to God.

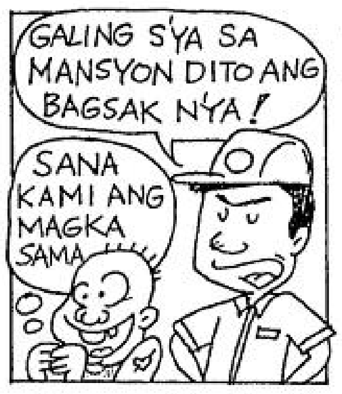
He said he would face all the charges, and aired the by-now-familiar tirade against the "rich of Makati" as well as the media outfits "owned and manipulated by the rich" that, he said, were spreading lies about him.

In Manila, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, urged government authorities to arrest Estrada, saying this was the next logical step in making him answerable to the charges lodged against him at his impeachment trial.

According to Quevedo, there was never any doubt that Estrada is no longer president, and he should be arrested as soon as all legal obstacles are cleared.

"The arrest should be done if the court says so," Quevedo said at a press conference at the CBCP

GO AHEAD/ A18


GALING S'YA SA MANSYON DITO ANG BAGSAK N'YA!
SANA KAMI ANG MAGKA SAMA

Erap in jail a 'security nightmare'

BY TJ BURGONIO

"*ANO siya, sineswerte?*"

A prison guard at the Quezon City Jail took one of Joseph Estrada's favorite lines and tossed it back to the indicted former President yesterday, as jail officials promised that

ERAP IN JAIL/ A14

Erap asks high court to reverse decision

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN, VOLT CONTRERAS AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

ADMITTEDLY in violation of the rules of court, a lawyer of Joseph Estrada yesterday filed a new motion for reconsideration asking the Supreme Court to reverse its second 13-0 decision against his client.

Lawyer Rene Saguisag claimed that he had "newly discovered evidence" to prove that the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo tried to convince Estrada to resign "after" Jan. 20, 2001, apparently to imply that the disgraced leader had never done so.

Saguisag said these efforts were "kept confidential" until Justice Secretary Hernando Perez denied that they took place.

He seemed to be referring to the supposed secret meetings between Perez and Estrada, wherein the justice secretary supposedly attempted to convince the latter to leave the country.

Earlier, Estrada announced on radio that his legal team would file a new motion for reconsideration.

"Perhaps the court will no longer listen, but we have to exhaust all legal remedies," Reuters quoted him as saying. "We are still hoping that we can get justice from the Supreme Court."

Saguisag, also according to

ERAP ASKS/ A18

TURNING 54 years old on Thursday, President Macapagal starts the day with a Mass at the San Fernando Cathedral in Pampanga and with husband, Mike Arroyo, greets well-wishers from the church verandah. JOAN BONDOC

Hectic schedule for birthday girl

BY DONNA S. CUETO AND ARMAND NOCUM

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—It was a day crowded with activities ranging from the political to the economic when President Macapagal-Arroyo celebrated her 54th birthday yesterday, her first in office.

Even her husband, lawyer Jose Miguel"Mike" Arroyo, sent her a "love message" through a press statement.

She started the day in her home province, Pampanga, asking for a birthday gift from her "*cabalen*" (Kapampangan for provincemates): To vote "13-0" straight for all the administration senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition (PPC).

Only four out of 13 PPC candidates were present at the Bren Guiao Convention Center where the President spoke to about 2,000 of her cabalen.

They were former Bulacan Gov. Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan, reelectionist Sen. Franklin Drilon, former Bureau of Internal Revenue

HECTIC/ A6

THE TRIAL, PART II

Soap continues minus Joker, Titong, Nene, Miriam...

BY VOLT CONTRERAS, CATHY YAMSUAN AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

JUST when ousted President Joseph Estrada needed them most, some of the country's top lawyers who defended him during the aborted Senate impeachment trial would no longer be around when he goes on trial at the Sandiganbayan for plunder and corruption charges.

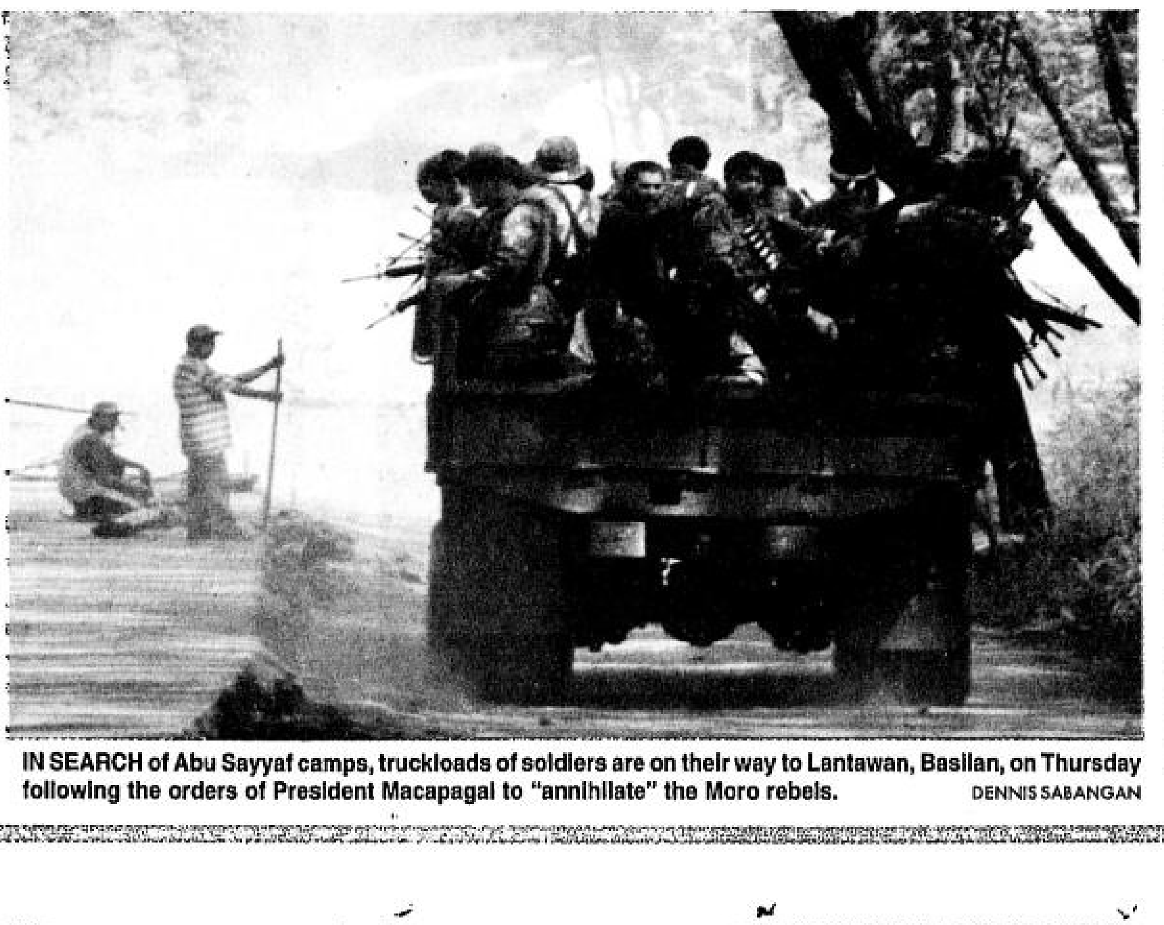
For various reasons, former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa and lawyers like Estelito Mendoza, Raul Daza and Jose Flaminiano are not appearing as Estrada's counsels at the anti-graft court.

But all the witnesses presented by the House prosecutors at the impeachment trail would be asked by the Office of the Ombudsman to testify again against Estrada, according to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Should a live television coverage of the trial be allowed, televiewers will again see and hear Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president Clarissa Ocampo, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Emma Lim, Carmencita Itchon and the rest of the witnesses who testified about

SOAP/ A7

SCHILLING'S mother, Carol and his wife, Ivy Osani, leave the US Embassy after meeting with American officials for the first time. AP



IN SEARCH of Abu Sayyaf camps, truckloads of soldiers are on their way to Lantawan, Basilan, on Thursday following the orders of President Macapagal to "annihilate" the Moro rebels. DENNIS SABANGAN

Abu calls off plan to behead 'gentle giant'

"WE CALL him our gentle giant, and we want his great big bear hugs. Please release my only son," US hostage Jeffrey Schilling's mother, Carol, appealed yesterday to Abu Sayyaf kidnappers who had threatened to behead her son as a gift to President Macapagal-Arroyo on her 54th birthday.

And so two minutes before a self-imposed 5 p.m. execution deadline, while thousands of soldiers fanned out across Jolo, Sulu, in search of bandit lairs, the Abu Sayyaf temporarily called off its plan to kill the 25-year-old American.

"The execution is suspended to give Mrs. Schilling a chance to appeal to President (Macapagal-Arroyo) to settle this problem," Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya said over RMN-dxRZ Radyo Agong, speaking via satellite phone from a hideout on Jolo.

ABU/ A14

KUNG SINO SINO KASI ANG BINIBIGYAN N'YO!

Party-list issue heats up

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ
AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

OUTRAGE at the abuse of the party-list system is building after "true" party-list groups and other civil organizations came together yesterday to denounce the Commission on Elections for its "blunder" in accrediting "dubious" groups under the party-list system.

Officials of the complaining organizations vowed to hale the Comelec to court and pool their resources to block efforts of the suspect groups, most of which are allied with deposed President Joseph Estrada and other traditional politicians (*trapos*), to enter the halls of Congress in the guise of being party-list representatives.

The Commission on Elections admitted, however, that it was powerless to prevent Estrada allies, officials of previous administrations, traditional politicians and their children, and others from being named as nominees in the party-list system.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said Republic Act 7941 or the Party-list Law should be amended to limit the qualifications of party-list groups and their nominees to those who belong to marginalized and under-represented sectors.

'Trapos'

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said her group would file a petition before the Supreme Court next week questioning the Comelec's accreditation of several groups identified with Estrada and other *trapos* in the party-list system.

Rosales said that of the 163 accredited groups, half were "bogus" party-list groups and did not in any way represent politically marginalized sectors.

She cited actor Richard Gomez's Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga, the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (Creba) and Drug Watch as among those, which do not represent any, marginalized sector.

In the case of Gomez's MAD, Rosales said money from the government's Dangerous Drugs Board was used to finance its earlier campaign.

Creba, on the other hand, is an organization composed of big landlords and developers who could not be classified as marginalized, she said.

Equalizer

"The goal of the Constitution was very clear—to broaden and equalize the political spectrum to include marginalized sectors which could not in any way compete with the resources of big political parties," said lawyer Rene Sarmiento, former Concom commissioner.

Louie Corral of the party-list Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) said the system has become a tool for political accommodation.

Corral cited, among others, the Citizen's Movement for Justice, Economy, Environment and Peace (Jeep), a group allied with Estrada whose nominee is a son-in-law of former Senate president Marcelo Fernan, a close Estrada ally; Balikatan sa Kabuhayan Koalisyon (BSK), reportedly belonging to Estrada mistress Guia Gomez; Kabataan ng Masang Pilipino of Estrada and Gomez's son, JV Ejercito, and Lakas-NUCD, whose nominee is government peace negotiator Silvestre Bello III.

Violation in spirit

Benipayo agreed with Rosales that the participation of politicians, big businessmen and former government officials "violated the spirit" of the party-list system.

He said, however, that it was "not yet too late" to disqualify party-list nominees, although the only "limitations" set by law are that a person may be nominated by only one party and nominees shall not be candidates for other posts in the same elections nor should they have lost in the immediate past election.

An officer at the Comelec legal department expressed doubt, however, that the list of nominees would be purged at all.

"That list is final," the source said. "Their qualifications shall be contested only after the elections, if they win."

Under the party-list law, the minimum qualifications of a party-list nominee are Filipino citizenship, registration as a voter, one-year residency in the country, literacy, membership in the party or group for at least 90 days and at least 25 years of age. Youth sector representatives must not be older than 30.

Familiar names

A cursory look at the list of nominees submitted by 162 party-list groups, coalitions and parties would reveal familiar names who played key roles in the Estrada government and in previous administrations. Also nominated were scions of politicians and incumbent officials.

Among these were former Estrada flagships secretary Robert Aventajado, Estrada lawyers Edward Serapio and Fernando Chua, former interior secretary Ronaldo Puno, Chief Superintendents Romeo Acop and Jewel Canson, former legislative liaison officer Jimmy Policarpio, former presidential assistant Jesus Crispin Remulla, former Nueva Ecija Gov. Eduardo Nonato Joson and former Caloocan Rep. Aurora Asistio Henson.

Comelec word war simmers

BY G. G. LACUARTA

THERE appears to be no end in sight to the simmering word war between top officials of the Commission on Elections, even as some commissioners have heeded the call for self-restraint in issuing statements to the media.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo yesterday took another dig at Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, accusing her of bypassing members of the printing committee in making decisions regarding the printing of ballots and election returns for the May 14 polls.

Benipayo said the printing committee chaired by Tancangco had become "a committee of one." The committee is composed of two Comelec staffers and representatives of the Commission on Audit and an accredited citizens' arm.

"The reality is there is no committee," Benipayo [illegible]d. "The chairman ([illegible]ancangco) is the one deciding everything."

Benipayo recently designated another commissioner, Florentino Tuason Jr., to represent him on the printing committee with "full powers to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the operations for and in behalf of the chairman."

Tancangco questioned Benipayo's move, saying Tuason's designation would usurp her authority as chair of the committee. She said that while she welcomed Tuason as Benipayo's representative, she would not yield her supervisory control over the committee.

Tancangco, however, has apparently chosen to take a breather from the word war that has erupted among the commissioners.

An aide told reporters yesterday Tancangco was putting on a "self-imposed gag" to ease the tension between her camp and the chairman's.

When told of Tancangco's move, Benipayo said he welcomed it although he sounded skeptical.

"It's the first I've heard of it," Benipayo said. "Let's see whether the self-imposed gag rule will be enforced."

Commissioner Mehol Sadain, chair of the media committee, had earlier appealed to his colleagues to "refrain from issuing press statements that tended to sow intrigue, or maliciously or unfairly impute a wrongdoing to any Comelec official without the benefit of investigation or clearance from the commission en banc or the chairman."

Sadain specifically cited Commissioner Rex Borra who allegedly leaked to media details of an ongoing investigation into the theft of ballots by a Comelec employee from the National Printing Office on March 12. Borra said the culprit worked for Tancangco's printing committee.

Benipayo said he was "still hopeful things could be ironed out among the commissioners for the good of the commission itself."

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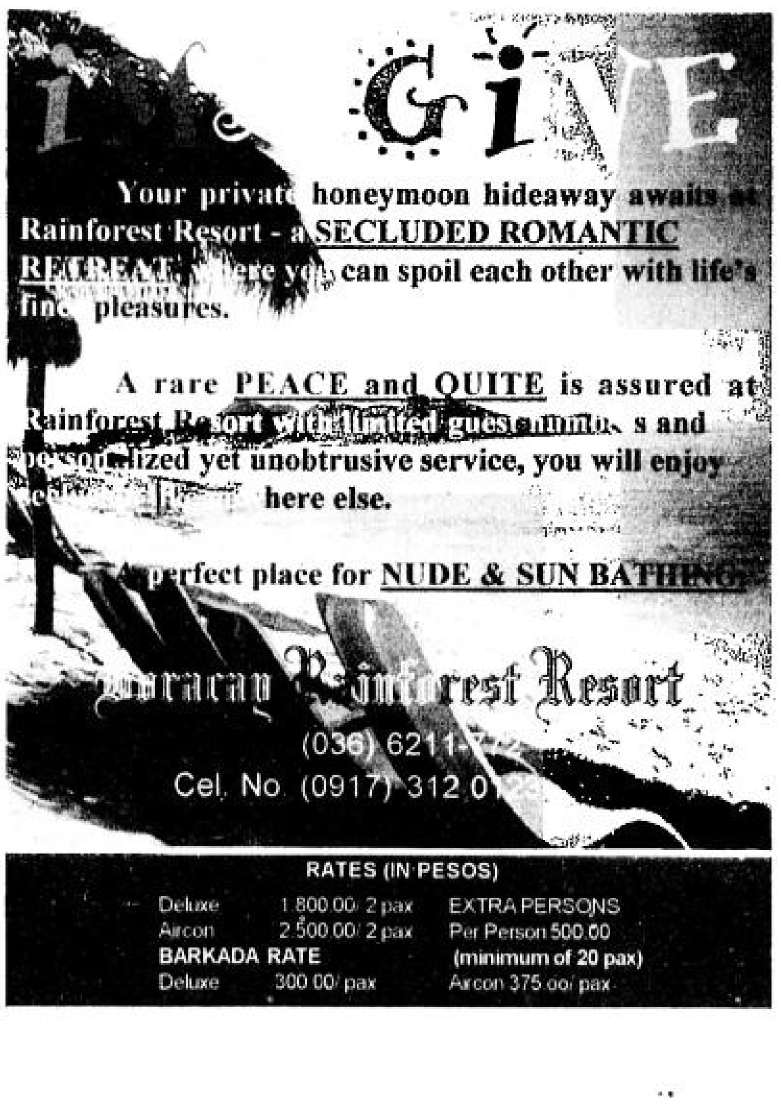
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Spy plane row worries Asia

TOKYO—As Washington and Beijing continue to wrangle over a downed US spy plane, countries in Asia expressed concern that escalating tensions could cast a shadow over diplomatic and economic relations across the region.

The stakes are high for a part of the world that has more than its share of territorial disputes and political hotspots, many of which involve China's communist government.

There are few signs that the dispute has had a wider impact—yet. But government officials and editorial writers in Asia wasted no time urging Washington and Beijing to settle their differences quickly before the conflict gets out of hand.

At the end of a two-day conference in Manila to discuss South China Sea territorial disputes, both Chinese and Philippine officials played down the influence of the standoff.

"We will look at it as an isolated case," said Roilo Golez, Philippine national security adviser.

RP concern

"American allies including Thailand could be drawn into the standoff," The Nation newspaper warned in Bangkok.

That prospect is especially worrying for Japan, which hosts 50,000 American troops on its territory under a mutual security alliance with the United States.

The US Navy EP-3E electronic surveillance aircraft has been grounded on the Chinese island of Hainan since colliding with a Chinese jet on Sunday, when it took off from a US base in southern Japan.

And Japan depends completely on imported oil that arrives through shipping lanes in the South China Sea to power its economy.

"We don't want to see any escalation," said Kazuhiko Koshikawa,

a spokesman for Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori. "We strongly hope this case will be settled in an appropriate and... acceptable manner."

Muted reaction

In Europe, reaction was largely muted, though British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook called on Beijing to return the plane and crew.

"I wouldn't wish to be alarmist, but obviously it is in everybody's interests that these two countries should resolve the dispute and should do so as quickly as possible," Cook said in an interview Wednesday with BBC radio.

Concern has been mounting in Asia since US President George W. Bush warned China that relations between the two superpowers were at risk.

A rupture between Washington and Beijing could shake delicate relations with Taiwan, which China claims as a wayward province. As North Korea's only ally, the Chinese government has also played an important behind-the-scenes role in efforts to coax Pyongyang out of its 50-year-old isolation.

Korean talks

Kim Sung-han, a researcher at the South's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, said the standoff could hamper Seoul's plans for four-way peace talks to include both Koreas, the United States and China.

"If US-China relations worsen, it would be very hard to even build the very basic channel of communications to discuss peace," he said.

Putting Beijing on the defensive could make things even more difficult for Asian diplomats trying sort out completing claims to islands in the South China Sea, which China, Vietnam and the Philippines all call their own.

And then there is business. Companies from the United States, Europe and Japan have greatly expanded their presence in China in the past decade and are committed to the world's most populous nation as a manufacturing center and consumer market.

But officials and analysts insisted on Wednesday that the spy plane dispute had not yet caused sparks to fly elsewhere in Asia.

Perhaps the most reliable barometer of military tensions in the region is Taiwan. During tense times in the past, Chinese fighter jets have flown threatening sorties, crossing the imaginary "centerline" that separates the rivals across the Taiwan Strait. *AP*

Aviation lib to kill RP airlines, says solon

A CONGRESSMAN has warned the government against its reported plan to further liberalize civil aviation, citing the need to first put in place safety measures to protect the local airline industry.

Biliran Rep. Gerardo Espina, a member of the House committee on transportation and communications, said local airlines should be protected against unfair competition from foreign carriers, which would be allowed to ply domestic routes under the civil aviation policy of former President Joseph Estrada.

"Local airlines pay taxes. They have infused a lot of capital to put up their business. They employ thousands of Filipinos, and play a crucial role in developing local economies. If we can give foreign investors generous packages of incentives and various protection measures, surely we can be as generous to local investors," Espina said.

Fly now, pay later

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

FLY now and pay later.

This privilege often offered to tourists will now be made available to Filipino domestic help and factory workers bound for Taiwan with the recent structuring of fees collected by recruitment and manpower agencies here and in Taiwan.

Rosalinda Baldoz, administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, said Filipino domestic help and factory workers will now have to pay a only P32,000 in pre-deployment expenses, including placement fee placement fee equivalent to their one-month salary and other documentation costs to be able to leave for Taiwan.

Once in Taiwan, the domestic worker can pay the "on site fee" of P86,827 through installment and salary deduction. A factory worker, on the other hand, will pay an on-site fee of P140,000 also payable through salary deduction.

Warning out for fake SSS checks

THE SOCIAL Security System yesterday warned grocery stores and other retail outlets against cashing SSS members' checks, which could be part of the fake checkbooks manufactured by a criminal syndicate.

In a press statement, SSS president Vitaliano Nanagas asked storeowners to immediately call the police of the nearest SSS office to report offers by anybody to purchase goods using a member's check as payment.

"There are people going around asking stores to cash SSS checks after making few purchases," Nanagas said. "These checks later turn out to be fakes."

Nanagas issued the warning following the arrest last week in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro, of nine women, who bought goods in several stores using fake SSS checks. The women traveled across the province, cashing SSS checks in various towns.

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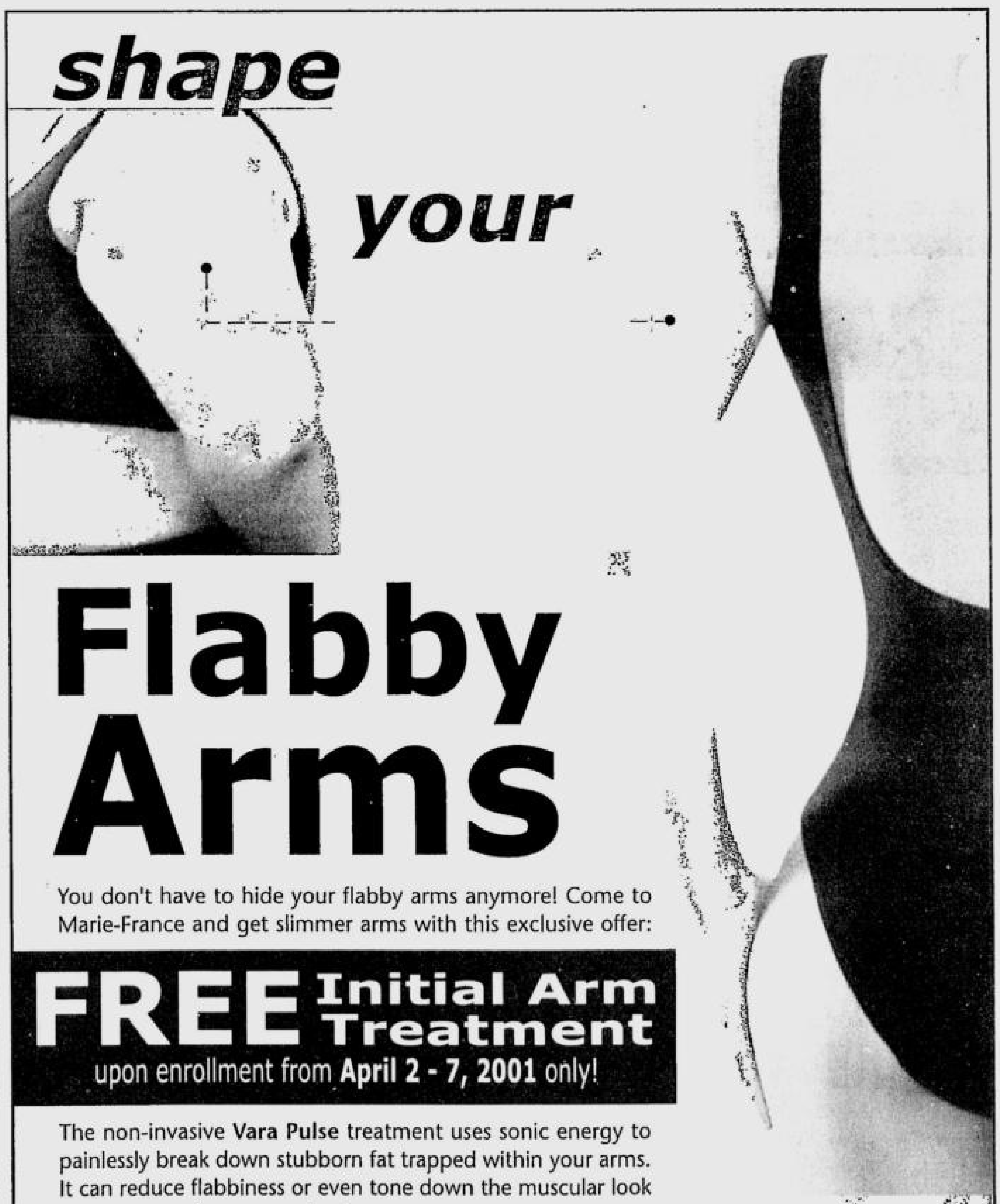

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3 bets survive scary plane ride to Tawi-Tawi

By Christine Avendaño

THE HAZARDS on the campaign trail hit home Wednesday when the plane carrying three candidates of the People Power Coalition was forced to abort its landing in Tawi-Tawi to avert a serious mishap on the runway.

The chartered King Air seven-seater carrying PPC senatorial bets Solita Monsod, Manny Villar and Juan Flavier was about to land at the Tawi-Tawi airport when its pilots spotted heavy equipment on the runway.

The incident happened at around 10:30 a.m. as the candidates were planing in from Bacolod City where they held a campaign rally.

Villar said heavy equipment was on the runway, prompting the pilots to pull the plane up to avert a serious accident.

Flavier said the runway was apparently being repaired when their plane arrived.

Tower officials then informed the pilots about the obstruction in their path and told them to circle once so the equipment could be hauled off.

Monsod said the plane circled in the air for a while and then safely landed.

"My heart was pounding but the pilots were just great," Monsod told reporters yesterday at the birthday rally for President Macapagal-Arroyo in San Fernando, Pampanga.

"It was not pleasant for us but it was not life-threatening either," she added.

Villar and Flavier said they were informed by the pilots of the situation.

Both said the incident did not scare them.

Villar took the incident lightly, saying it was one of the hazards on the campaign trail.

"It was our first missed landing," he told reporters.

The PPC just recently was able to afford chartering planes for the use of its candidates in their provincial sorties.

In contrast, the opposition Puwersa ng Masa allied with deposed President Joseph Estrada has been using planes to get around since the beginning of the campaign period.

The PnM counts several billionaires in its slate, not to mention the support it has received from industrialist Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco who owns several airplanes himself.

Also on the plane with Monsod, Villar and Flavier were television actress Giselle Sanchez and a cameraman.

Angara vows to push college education for all

OPPOSITION senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara yesterday said he is drafting a "College Education for All" measure, a landmark initiative that would give every Filipino access to tertiary education.

Angara, a leading senatorial candidate of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa, said that no Filipino who is qualified to get a college education should be denied of the chance to enter a college or university.

The Tertiary Education For All Act will be filed within his first 100 days in the Senate, Angara said in a press statement.

Angara was the principal sponsor of the Free High School Act, and the laws that created the Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Education Skills Development Authority. He was also the major force behind the bipartisan Congressional Commission on Educational Modernization, which drafted a comprehensive and in-depth report on the state of Philippine education.

The opposition candidate said that the "creative use" of vouchers and coupons will be the anchor of the proposed measure.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Meralco making consumers pay for 'sweetheart deal'–Enrile

IS the Lopez family charging Meralco consumers the cost of a "sweetheart deal" between Meralco and a family-owned power generating company?

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile raised this question yesterday as he urged the Lopezes and the Energy Regulatory Board to disclose to the public the contribution of the Lopez-owned First Gas Power to the purchased power adjustment (PPA) that is being charged to the consumers of Meralco.

Metro Manilans and other Meralco consumers in Luzon are entitled to know how much they are being charged for the cost of the private contract between Meralco and First Gas, both of which are controlled/owned by the Lopezes, Enrile said in a statement. He said the contract is a "sweetheart deal" for which the consumers, without their knowing it, may be paying a stiff price.

The purchased power adjustments are surcharges imposed by National Power Corp. on power utilities to cover fluctuations in currency exchange, oil importation costs and other economic variables related to power generation. These surcharges are in turn passed on to consumers.

"I believe that in the interest of transparency, Meralco should segregate the Napocor PPA from its own PPA in their electric bills to consumers," Enrile said.

Since the bilateral contract between the Lopez-controlled Meralco and the Lopez-owned First Gas Power was negotiated privately within the family, it is only natural to favor First Gas whose profits are unregulated and go entirely to the Lopezes. This, he said, would be unfavorable to Meralco, which can then charge it against its regulated Return on Rate Base (RORB) limit, and at the same time, pass the cost to consumers.

This Enrile said, is a double whammy on the public and the consumers while the Lopezes pocket the profits from both Meralco and First Gas.

First Gas Power, Enrile said, is supposed to be competitive using Malampaya natural gas, which will not be available until 2003 or 2004. However, the Lopezes decided to build the power plant early even if it will run on more expensive condensate fuel and to make big profits from it without considering the huge interim cost to the consumers and the losses of Napocor as a result.

"It appears that Meralco believed they could just conceal the higher fuel cost in the PPA," Enrile said.

He suspects further that Meralco is already making payments to First Gas Power even if it is not drawing power from the delayed power plant. These payments are probably hidden in the PPA that Meralco is passing on to consumers, he said.

On top of the PPA charges, the Lopez Group is said to be lobbying hard to recover from the government or the consumers the equivalent of 30 to 50 centavos per kwh in additional stranded costs. The Lopezes appear to be fighting any requirement to eliminate "sweetheart" provisions in the family-negotiated bilateral contract, Enrile said.

Comelec unsure if media bribery is vote buying

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE COMMISSION on Elections is at a loss on how to deal with the bribery of journalists by candidates or their supporters as election laws penalize only vote-buying and vote-selling.

Even Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioner Rex Borra cannot agree if giving cash to reporters constitutes vote-buying, or if the bribery of journalists was covered by any election law at all.

Campaign staff of former broadcaster Noli de Castro were reported to have distributed envelopes containing P300 to journalists after a news conference in General Santos City.

De Castro refused to comment on the report, but Speaker Manny Villar, whose name was mentioned in the report, said it was never his policy to give money to members of media.

"I will not allow myself to be used as an instrument to corrupt the country's media and interfere with their objectivity. Giving out money to the media has never been, and will never be, my policy," Villar said.

He said he was perplexed by the INQUIRER report quoting a member of the media in South Cotabato as saying he or she received an envelope containing P500 said to have come from the Villar camp.

"This is highly improbable as I personally do not permit such actions," he said.

Borra said the Omnibus Election Code penalized only vote-buying, which is committed when any person "gives, offers or promises money or anything of value, or cause an expenditure to be made to any person in order to induce anyone or the public in general to vote for or against any candidate."

Benipayo for his part admitted he was "not aware" of any election law, which prohibited or penalized the bribery of journalists during the campaign.

Benipayo said bribery of media persons was "more of a question of journalistic ethics."

"It depends on the purpose," Benipayo said. "It must be for some consideration."

Benipayo, however, said the bribery of journalists "goes against the spirit" of the recently passed Fair Elections Act, as bribery could the objectivity of reporters in presenting the news.

"Definitely, anything that violates the Fair Elections Act is an election offense," Benipayo said.

The Fair Elections Act, which was passed recently to give all candidates equal access to media, merely encouraged all members of media to "scrupulously report and interpret the news, taking care not to suppress essential facts or distort the truth by omission or improper emphasis."

"They shall recognize the duty to air the other side and the duty to correct substantive errors promptly," the law said.

Villar takes up cudgels for tutors

FORMER Speaker Manny Villar has appealed to the government on behalf of an estimated 100,000 teachers all over the country who may not be allowed to practice their profession when the school year opens this June as a result of the Teachers' Professionalization Act of 1994.

"We must find ways such that affected teachers will not be deprived of their right to practice their profession," said Villar.

Recently, the Department of Justice declared that teachers who were not able to register with the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) by September 1997 in accordance with the law, would have to take examinations in order to be allowed to practice their profession.

"The date for these exams must be set as soon as possible in order not to deprive teachers of their right to practice their profession or we must amend the law such that teachers will not be unduly affected," said Villar.

The Teachers Professionalization Act was passed in 1994. It required practicing teachers to register with the PRC by September of 1997. Those who did not register by the said date would have to take qualifying examinations to be allowed to practice their profession.

An estimated 100,000 teachers have not been able to register despite the deadline. Fears were raised that the recent DOJ ruling would disenfranchise thousands of tutors in public and private schools around the country who may not be able to practice their profession. The law provides harsh penalties for schools, which hire unregistered teachers.

Villar says it would be best to "set specific dates" for examinations as soon as possible to facilitate taking of the exams by the teachers. "That would be the best thing to do as it would be unfair to take away from our teachers their right to make a living," said the People Power Coalition senatorial candidate.

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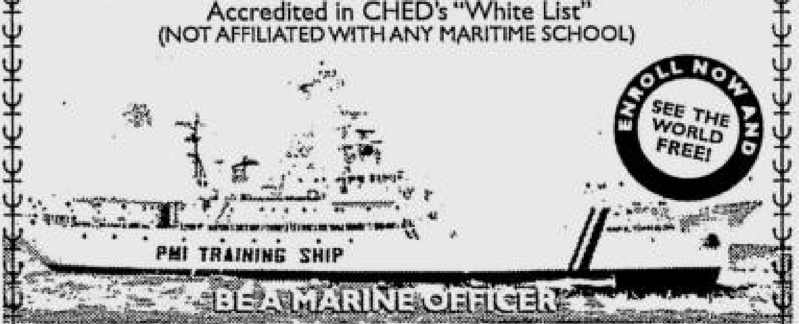

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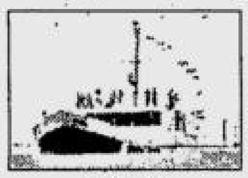

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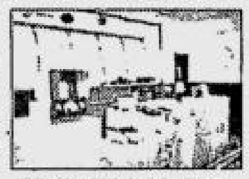

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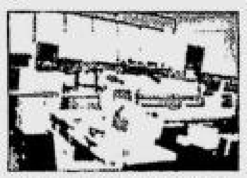

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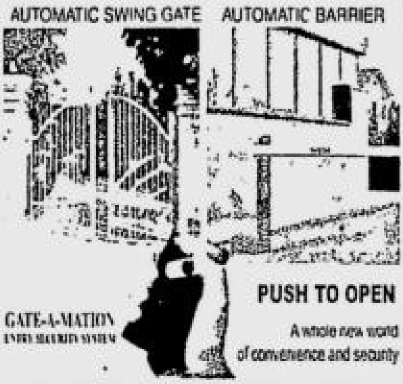

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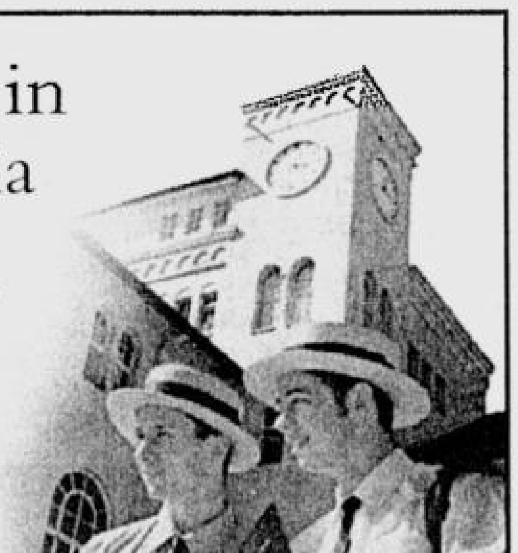

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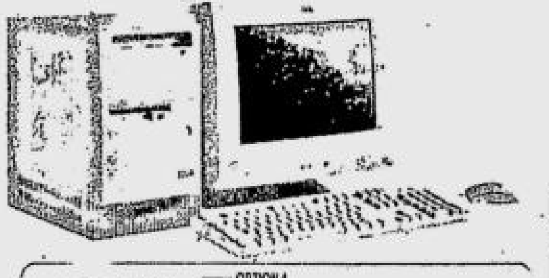

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Travel mag cites RP tourism revival

A PRESTIGIOUS Singapore-based Asian travel trade publication has noted local developments that spell good signs for the resurgence of Philippine tourism under President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Department of Tourism said yesterday.

The Travel Trade Gazette Asia published "Signs of Hope for Tourism Under Arroyo," which cited the "strong revival of government interest in tourism" as a positive industry indicator.

The article also noted increased investor confidence in the country and peace initiatives of Ms Macapagal with Muslim secessionists in the South as factors bringing about more visitor traffic to the Philippines.

MAGSAYSAY ON THE TRAIL

Reelectionist Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. (second from left), who runs third in the latest Social Weather Stations senatorial survey, studies the plan for the development of the Abucay port project during a stop-over from campaign sorties in the province recently. With the senator are (from left) engineers Dan Enriquez, Ernesto Vergara and Guillermo Carlos and Abucay Mayor Liberato Santiago Jr. The project will reduce ferry travel time from Manila to Bataan.

Drilon a hit in ad on crying 'big man'

By J.L. Javellana

IN SHOWBIZ, it is a well-known fact that dogs and children will steal a scene from a veteran actor every time.

And the adage is being proven again this campaign season with the TV political ads featuring children drawing the most positive response from the electorate.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, candidate of the People Power Coalition, saw the power of his crafty political ad recently on a campaign sortie to Catarman, Northern Samar.

Perched on a truck, Drilon was waving to the residents who came out of their homes when a middle-aged man shouted out to him from a sari-sari store: "*Hindi na tayo iiyak* (We shall not cry anymore)!" To which Drilon yelled back: "*Basta iboto niyo si* Drilon (As long as you vote for Drilon)!"

Near the town plaza, where a band was playing and a long line of tricycles paraded past, a group of teenage boys chorused "Big man! Big man!"

The phrase was straight out of Drilon's 30-second ad featuring a distraught boy who suddenly found himself being lifted by a "big man"—Drilon, "the heavyweight in the Senate."

As Drilon lifts the boy onto his shoulders, the image of the senator tearfully embracing Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. flashes on the screen.

It was footage straight out of the Senate impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada when the latter's senator-allies succeeded in blocking the opening of an envelope believed to contain damning evidence against him.

As the image fades, the young boy tells Drilon, "*Hindi na tayo iiyak, ha* (We'll not cry anymore, ok)?"

"I attract a lot of kids because of the ad," Drilon told the INQUIRER as he smiled and waved to the people lining the Catarman motorcade route.

In one provincial sortie, Drilon laughingly recalled how a young and good-looking mother approached him to say that her child wanted to hug him.

"Can the mother hug me instead?" Drilon, twice married, teasingly responded.

"The little child concept was mine," Drilon told the INQUIRER. He said it was during the Flower Festival two months ago that he got the idea.

"Little kids were running after me and telling me, 'Senator,' *ang laki-laki mo pero umiiyak ka pa* (you are big but you still cry).' I tried it at a rally and then another and people liked it," Drilon said.

Another child, a 4-month-old baby to be exact, is also expected to do magic for her dad—lawyer Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan.

Simone Francesca Emmanuelle, or Frankie, born Dec. 16, 2000 to Pangilinan and his celebrity wife, Sharon Cuneta, has shot her first TV ad for her dad's senatorial campaign.

The homey ad starts with Pangilinan talking to someone off-camera, telling his unseen listener to fight for what is right and do their share in nation-building.

Hearing Kiko's spiel, his wife, one of the country's top stars, appears onscreen to ask who he is talking to.

"*Ah, eh, si* Frankie," Kiko sheepishly responds and the camera focuses on a smiling Frankie.

Rice imports legal–NFA

THE NATIONAL Food Authority confirmed yesterday that the rice shipments in Batangas port are not smuggled but are part of the importation approved by the government early this year under a special loan agreement.

NFA administrator Anthony Abad made the statement even as he stressed that the arrivals in Batangas are part of the rice imports of the government under the PL 480 program of the United States shipped in February.

The government imported a total of 104,311 metric tons under the program, Abad cited.

The US PL 480 commodity loan program caters to developing countries through the shipment of US farm produce which are then monetized to bankroll agricultural projects. For this particular importation, the proceeds will initially go to the National Treasury and will then be used for agricultural development projects.

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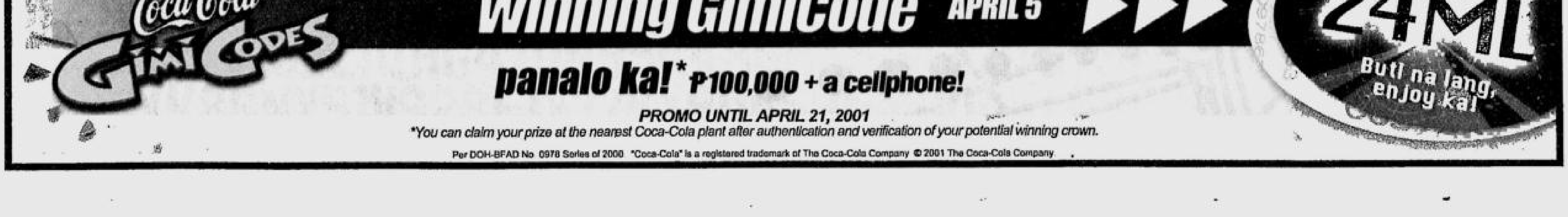

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Cool, says Buan's child of pa's release

(From page A1)

In separate statements, the National Democratic Front (NDF) spokesperson Luis Jalandoni and NDF consultant Jose Ma. Sison assured the government that the NDF was ready to release its "prisoner of war" today in Mindoro Oriental.

They said it was the NPA's Melito Glor Command that would release Buan although the exact location is being kept secret.

Jalandoni said the NDF negotiating panel, which he heads, had sent an urgent memorandum to the Philippine government signifying its intention to release Buan today.

The NDF, however, made additional "requests" to President Macapagal-Arroyo to ensure Buan's "safe and orderly release."

These requests are:

- All Special Action Forces (SAF) of the Philippine National Police in San Mariano in Roxas town and San Antonio and Cagulong in Mansalay town to be confined to barracks at the poblacion of Bulalacao town in Mindoro Oriental;
- All checkpoints from Puerto Galera to Bulalacao should be removed and the Regional SAF units to be confined to provincial headquarters in Calapan, Mindoro Oriental;
- All military intelligence tactical units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Mindoro Oriental to be pulled out and confined to Calapan, Mindoro Oriental.

Jalandoni said Ms Macapagal, as commander in chief, should issue the "three requisite actions" in the "strictest terms."

He said the "requisite actions" should take effect starting today until midnight of April 11 "in order to accommodate the release procedure up to the full withdrawal of the NPA custodial force."

"I hope that President Macapagal-Arroyo will comply with the request of the NDF national executive committee, through NDF negotiating panel chair Luis Jalandoni, that she issue the strictest orders for the following to be undertaken before 6 April 2001," Sison said.

Sison said the ceasefire called by both the government and the NDF up to April 11 in the Mindoro and Calabarzon provinces would enhance the favorable atmosphere for the solidarity conference for peace in Manila on April 18 and the resumption of the peace negotiations on April 28.

JENINA BUAN: With enchantment in her mind. DENNIS SABANGAN

Jalandoni said the NDF had authorized the NPA custodial force to abort Buan's release should the government violate any provisions in the suspension order for military operations (Somo) and suspension order of police operations (Sopo), particularly in Mindoro Oriental.

Supt. Romeo T. Ricardo, Oriental Mindoro police chief, said he had already ordered the removal of all checkpoints and directed the commanding officers of the SAF in Mindoro to confine their personnel to the barracks.

But he said he had no authority to withdraw the intelligence units of the AFP since he had no jurisdiction over them.

He said there was no need to bring RSAF troops to Calapan because there was no more time "to move such a large force."

"We may even be misconstrued as launching an operation if we do that. The best thing is to confine them to the barracks so that we can avoid any misunderstanding and at the same time we save on resources," Ricardo said.

In 1991, the NPA released only three of its five captives after last-minute hitches in Bongabong town. As a result, the two remaining captives, one of them a police captain, was forced to stay with the rebels for more than a month before they were released "on humanitarian grounds."

Three-hour ride

Staff members of the government panel were busy coordinating with Church personnel, peace advocates and local officials for the details of the release. They kept mum, however, on the exact place of the release although they hinted that it would be "some three hours ride" from Calapan City.

Since yesterday morning, staffers of foreign and national media outfits have been assembling in Calapan.

"It was a long wait. I hope our lives will return to normal," Cielo Buan said 20 hours before the scheduled release today of her husband.

Mrs. Buan arrived at 5: 20 p.m. yesterday at the Calapan port along with her daughter Jenina and Sen. Loren Legarda.

Buan is to be turned over to representatives of different entities working for his release, including the government and NDF peace panel, the humanitarian mission headed by Legarda, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Philippine Center for Peace.

Carnival

While the adults are working on her father's safe release, Jenina has enchantment in her mind.

She said she was not sure how many friends she could invite to the Enchanted Kingdom, a favorite local carnival, when her own enchanted dreams of a reunion with her father are realized.

"Do you think I can take all my friends?" she asked.

Buan's daughter and only child has been running high on adrenaline for the past few weeks as she awaits news of her father's release, prepared as ever to receive the man who fondly calls her "baba" (love in Bicolano).

She has readied her jumper, rubber shoes and the shirt she will hand over to her dad when Buan is handed over to his family. The gifts she and her mother had bought for the long-lost man of the house were neatly packed and waiting in their home in Fort Bonifacio.

The girl may look a little fragile but she's all set to fight her way into her father's arms when the event calls for such physical battle, considering the hype it will cause in the media and the throng of family members.

"I have to come. I will object if they don't let me go with mom to fetch dad," Jenina insists. *With reports from Carlito Pablo*

Hectic day for birthday girl

(From page A1)

Commissioner Liwayway Vinzons Chato and economist Solita "Winnie" Monsod. The President raised their hands each time their names were called.

The President made sure that the people remembered the names of all 13 candidates, as she repeatedly shouted "VOT FOR D CHAMMP," with each letter representing a PPC senatorial candidate.

Earlier, her first stop was at the San Fernando Cathedral where she attended a "thanksgiving Mass" along with her husband, her three children, relatives, friends and Cabinet members who came in full force.

Memories

Ms Macapagal spoke of the need for the President of a country to have the "capacity for self-denial."

She said that this was what her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, taught her.

"He (my father) said that the presidency is not a position to be enjoyed. It is a position where, for the well-being of the people, the chosen leader of the nation must give his best, make sacrifices, and if necessary, suffer," the President said in her native Kapampangan.

"I firmly believe in my father's views about the presidency and I shall heed his thoughtful message in my administration," she said.

The President reiterated her four core beliefs for good governance, morality in government, need for new politics, and leadership by example.

"I believe that my ascension to the presidency is also the honor and pride of all 'Kapampangans.' It is unprecedented in our nation's history that two Philippine presidents should come from one province—Pampanga—and both of them from the Macapagal family," she said.

Present at the birthday Mass were the President's children: Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, Evangelina "Luli" Arroyo and Diosdado "Dado" Macapagal Arroyo III. The President's half-sister, Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, also showed up. Cielo was the late President Macapagal's daughter by his first wife.

Also present were immigration chief Andrea Domingo and former President Corazon Aquino, who was wearing her usual yellow outfit.

Local officials also attended the Mass led by Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid.

The Mass was concelebrated by some 20 priests led by Archbishop Paciano Aniceto.

Outside the cathedral, posters of presidential son Mikey Arroyo, who is running for vice governor, could be seen all around.

After Mass, the President held a breakfast meeting with her Cabinet members. At around 11 a.m., she visited and inspected the Megadike project. Next stop was at the Pampanga's provincial hospital in Guagua where she unveiled the marker for the ceremonial opening of the Japanese government-funded Maternal and Child Care Center.

She also launched the Department of Health's "Garantisadong Pambata" program at the same hospital.

Superstars

Later in the afternoon, she went to the Clark Ecozone where she welcomed the entry of what she called "two superstars that are household names." She was referring to United Parcel Service (UPS), the world's biggest parcel service and Lockheed, the world's biggest defense contractor.

She witnessed the signing of a letter of intent and memorandum of understanding with UPS and Lockheed, respectively.

The President said she considered the investment of four giant international firms in Clark Ecozone, including UPS, Lockheed and Century Properties, as an event that made her birthday memorable.

Ms Macapagal said her "homecoming" and birthday celebration in Pampanga was made all the more "exciting" with these developments.

She said that the return of major investors in the country meant that investor confidence was back, and that the political crisis was over.

She also announced her government's intention to develop Clark as an international airport.

More speeches

To cap the hectic day, the President nightfall presided over the inauguration of 30 out of 402 bridges being constructed to arrest the 15,091 bridges backlog in the country.

In her speech, the President said the construction of the modular, steel bridges will help her accomplish the "unfinished" business of the government to eliminate poverty.

She recalled that her father had launched a similar effort but failed to complete it.

"This is the unfinished business from the past and this is the challenge of the present," she said.

She quoted her father as saying in his parting message that he "tried to fight poverty, conquer poverty and he hopes that someday, another leader of a future generation will continue what he tried to do."

The President said that with the Tulay ng Pangulo sa Barangay project, there is now "renewed hope" for the completion of such task.

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Soap continues but minus Joker, Titong, Nene, Miriam...

(From page A1)

Estrada's impeachable offenses.

But there will be major changes in the dramatis personae.

House prosecutors like Joker Arroyo, Oscar Moreno and Sergio Apostol will no longer be cast as interrogators of the witnesses.

In their place would be Ombudsman Aniano Desierto as lead prosecutor.

Desierto filed plunder and seven other criminal cases against Estrada the other day, following the Supreme Court's second 13-0 decision reiterating that he is no longer President and therefore not entitled to immunity from criminal suit.

Desierto announced that the government would field at least 13 public lawyers led by himself, Justice Secretary Perez, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo and Presidential Management Staff Jonathan Tenefrancia.

Perez and Marcelo were among the private lawyers who helped the House prosecution team at the impeachment trial.

Other private lawyers, who assisted the House prosecutors, can be deputized to assist Desierto and company "although on an unofficial capacity," Perez said.

And instead of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena will sit at the rostrum.

Estrada lawyers

Raymund Parsifal Fortun is one of the two Estrada lawyers from the impeachment days who have decided to be "re-engaged" in defending the beleaguered former President.

The other returning defense counsel is Cleofe Verzola.

A third lawyer who is expected to defend Estrada again is Pacifico Agabin, former dean of the UP College of Law. Agabin led the challenge to the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency before the Supreme Court.

Raymund's brother Philip Sigfrid, another impeachment lawyer for Estrada, will not be part of the defense team for the Sandiganbayan cases.

Fortun cited the reasons why his former senior teammates at the impeachment trial could not continue defending Estrada.

Narvasa, for being a former Chief Justice, is barred from appearing as counsel in any court (the impeachment tribunal was "not really a court") within five years from the time he retired. Narvasa retired in November 1998.

Daza is busy campaigning as candidate for governor of Northern Samar.

Mendoza had cited "health reasons" for not re-joining the legal battle for Estrada.

Flaminiano had "begged off" because of his heavy workload.

Sigfrid Fortun also cited a heavy workload for not handling the Estrada case, Raymund said.

"I'm the only one being re-engaged from my law firm (Fortun Narvasa & Salazar). Agabin and Verzola are also being tapped," he said.

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, who like Agabin helped Estrada challenge the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration before the Supreme Court, is also reportedly no longer planning to get involved in the cases filed against Estrada with the Sandiganbayan.

But other lawyers are willing to take the cudgels for Estrada.

Fortun said he was scheduled to meet new "volunteer" counsels last night at the Estrada residence on Polk Street, North Greenhills, in San Juan.

Fortun said Estrada personally called up his law firm to again ask for its services at around 3 p.m. Wednesday at the time Desierto filed the plunder cases against Estrada with the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada appointees

As for the Sandiganbayan justices who will handle the cases, six of the 14 justices currently sitting are Estrada appointees.

The six are Gregory Ong (1st Division), Raoul Victorino (2nd), Ricardo Ilarde (3rd), Rodolfo Palatao and Nicodemo Ferrer (4th) and Ma. Cristina Cortez-Estrada (5th), according to court sources.

Cortez-Estrada is not related to the former President whose real off-screen family name is Ejercito.

Aside from Garchitorena, the other justices are Catalino Castañeda, Edilberto Sandoval, Godofredo Legaspi, Anacleto Badoy, Teresita Lourdes de Castro, Narciso Nario and Minita Chico Navarro.

The complaints filed by the Ombudsman against Estrada et al. will be raffled off among the Sandiganbayan's five divisions at 1:30 p.m. today.

The soap continues

The Department of Justice will ask the Supreme Court today to allow "full television coverage" of the trial of Estrada's criminal cases.

This is to ensure transparency, according to Perez.

He said that full coverage of the court proceedings would also "disabuse the minds of (Estrada's) supporters against any attempt to railroad the cases."

Perez has instructed Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño to file today with the Supreme Court the petition allowing television coverage of the Sandiganbayan trial.

"The entire nation should know what is going on, what is the evidence. And it will be the best protection of Estrada against a railroad of the procedures," Perez said.

"Transparency is absolutely essential and the public is entitled to information," he explained.

Perez has good news to the people who are still hung up on the aborted impeachment trial which ran for five to seven hours daily, five days a week, from Dec. 9, 2000 to Jan. 17, 2001.

Like Perez, Desierto expects the whole nation, which had grown accustomed to watching the impeachment trial instead of the usual afternoon soap operas, to be glued again to their television sets. That is, if Garchitorena and his associate justices approve the proposal to have the proceedings aired live over television and radio.

Trial with ending

Unlike the impeachment trial, which was cut short by People Power II, Estrada's trial at the Sandiganbayan will definitely have an ending, according to Desierto.

"Of course, there will be an ending. This is a court proceeding, not a quasi-judicial one," Desierto said. "For sure we will be pushing for Estrada's conviction through an efficient presentation of evidence by the prosecution panel," he said.

Perez noted that 40 percent of the evidence to be presented against Estrada would consist of those already presented at the impeachment trial.

"The remaining 60 percent, which will be the major part, will consist of entirely new evidence," he said.

New evidence will include documents proving that Estrada used his influence to force the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to invest pension funds in Belle Corp. stocks.

Perez earlier alleged that Estrada had earned P1.89 million in commissions from the sale of these stocks.

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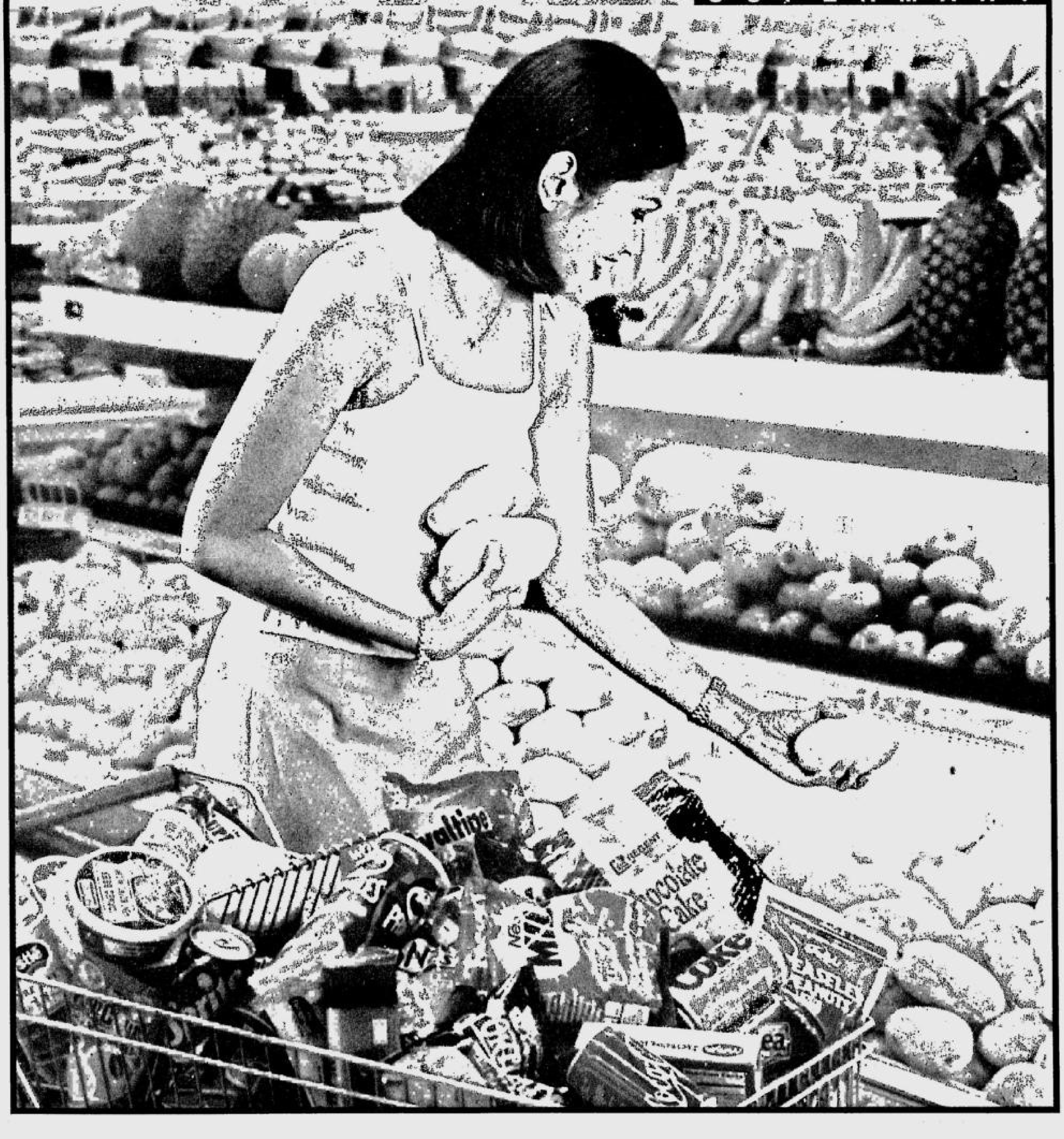

OPINION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 119
ISSN
0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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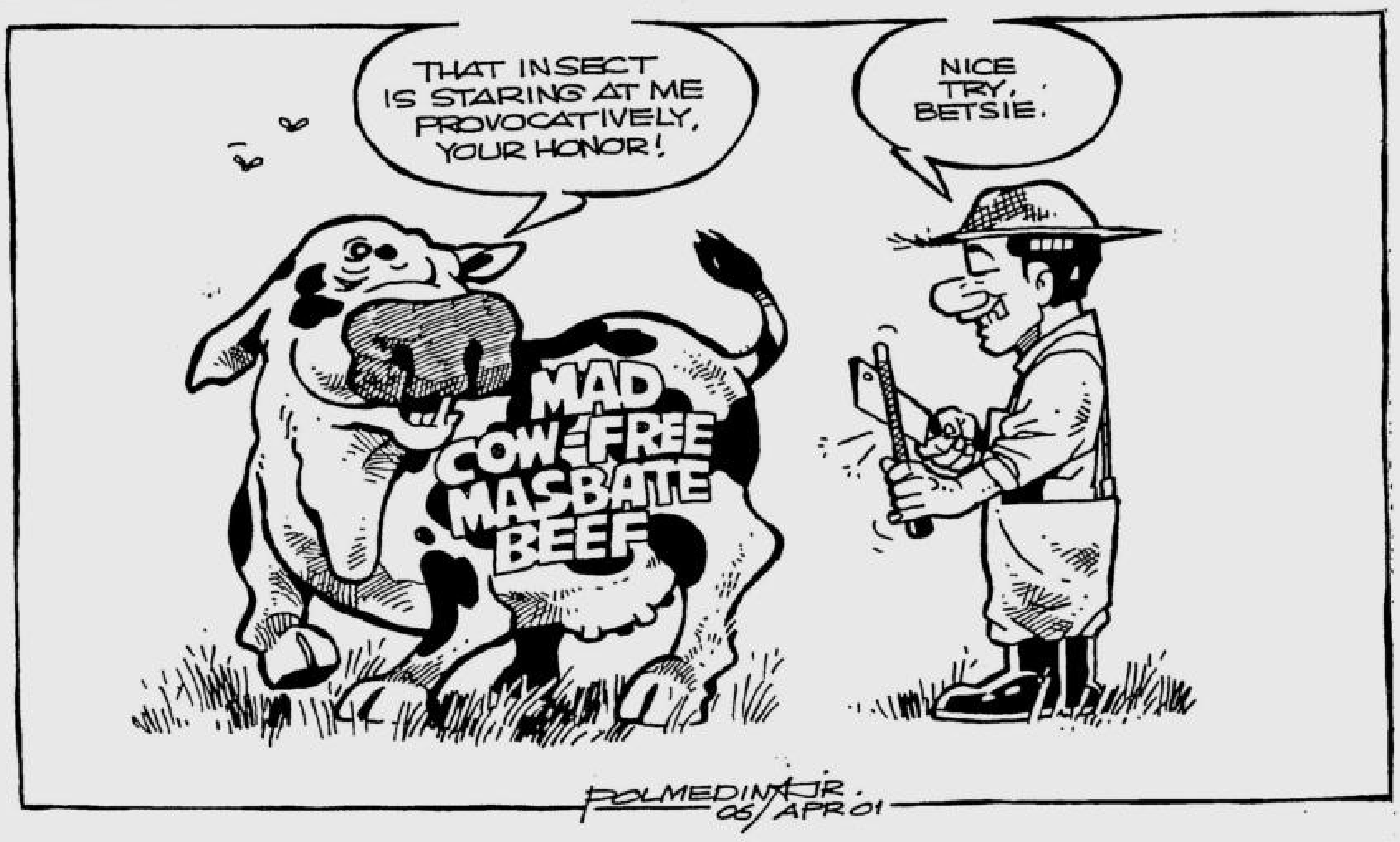
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EDITORIALS

A risk worth taking

THE FILIPINO people would rise in revolt and the whole country would be plunged into a civil war if Joseph Estrada were to be arrested and imprisoned. This was the warning (or was it a threat?) made by former First Lady Luisa Ejercito and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago after the Supreme Court unanimously rejected a petition of Estrada to recognize him as still the legitimate president.

No one knows how clear are their crystal balls or how much of a competition the two lady senatorial candidates of the deposed president's Puwersa ng Masa can offer Madame Auring. But it's quite amazing how a senator who had so fiercely claimed due process for Estrada during the impeachment trial would now propose to bend the law to protect the deposed president. It doesn't take a legal scholar to know that the rule of law doesn't only mean equal protection of the law but equal application of the law as well.

Just as amazing is how some officials in the Macapagal administration seem to take such threats seriously. Indeed almost from Day One, the possibility of bloodshed has spooked the administration, leading some officials to suggest that Estrada be allowed to go into foreign exile or that he be put away in an island beyond the reach of his supporters. Now that the way has been cleared for his arrest and prosecution, the administration is preparing to wash its hands of any responsibility for getting Estrada behind bars. Presidential spokesman Renato Corona has said Estrada's arrest is "not within Malacañang's power and prerogative."

But if the country's highest official doesn't have the power to get justice done for the Filipino people, who has that power? The Ombudsman? You leave everything to the Ombudsman, and you are likely to end up with nothing—no conviction, no restitution. Just look at the numerous cases against the Marcoses.

Maybe it would help the administration overcome its fears if it would get an honest-to-goodness assessment of the situation. From where we sit, we can't see Estrada mounting a serious challenge to the Armed Forces. A commander in chief who could not rally his troops to defend him against unarmed civilians can hardly be expected to lead even an unthinking horde in an uprising.

Granted Estrada can marshal enough support to create trouble, then the administration simply has to deal with the situation the best way it can. Any trouble he and his supporters can make is a risk worth taking. A government that cannot dispense justice is hardly worth saving anyway.

Before the administration forgets, Edsa was not about putting Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang. It was about getting Estrada out of the presidency and terminating his corrupt administration. To fail to give Estrada his just desserts is not only to forget what Edsa was about but to betray and repudiate the people who went there.

Health and hope

IT is fitting and commendable that in commemorating its centenary this year, the Zuellig Group of Companies has decided to launch the Zuellig Foundation which will address health issues in the country. Fitting because the group has distinguished itself mainly in the field of health care as a state-of-the-art distributor of medicines, nutritional supplements and medical supplies for the world's top companies. And commendable because health and nutrition today remain a major national concern and a *sine qua non* for national development.

As the new foundation declared at its launching last week, "Those who have health have hope." Good health is essential before any person can achieve his or her potential in life. As with a person, so with an entire community or nation. A country stricken by disease or malnutrition can hardly be expected to make any headway in economic modernization. This is the problem today of many countries in Africa.

The Philippines may be better off than many developing countries, but the problems of health and malnutrition facing us are acute and urgent. And many of them have to do with precisely those issues that the Zuellig Foundation intends to focus on.

One of these has to do with the shaping of sound public health policies. In many ways, the Philippines is still the prisoner of policies crafted decades ago. It is time we adopted the best practices in our approaches to public health and nutrition. By lending its resources and commissioning studies, the Zuellig Foundation can help make this happen.

7,000 pine trees will be massacred for Baguio road

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ISN'T it ironic that just as we are celebrating Earth Day, some 7,000 full-grown pine trees are about to be massacred in Baguio City? The pine trees will be sacrificed for the proposed Circumferential Road of (what an irony) the Pines City.

One of the charms of Baguio is the abundance of Benguet pines which grow only at high altitudes. When the wind blows, you can hear it whistle through the pine needles, and you get a whiff of their fragrance. The ground around a pine tree is always littered with pine cones and needles. The cones you can gather as Christmas decorations; the needless you can burn for their fragrant smoke that drives away mosquitoes. Walking in a pine forest is like walking on a carpet; the carpet of brown pine needles is that soft. Street signs hang from concrete posts made to look like trunks of pine trees. Baguio will always be associated with pine trees. That is why it is called City of the Pines.

But pine trees are fast disappearing not only in Baguio but also in the province that gave it its name: Benguet. And the Department of Public Works and Highways will make them disappear faster by killing 7,000 of them. In their place, the DPWH will put a ribbon of concrete and asphalt.

Only last March 6, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed in Malacañang between Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong; Environment Undersecretary Joemari Gerochi, Rep. (now environment secretary) Heherson Alvarez, chair of Globe Philippines and representatives of environmental NGOs. No less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo witnessed the signing.

The agreement modified plans for the Edsa-Quezon Avenue interchange to save 192 trees that were scheduled to be cut. They would now be retained instead, and the widening of Quezon Avenue done beyond the line of trees.

President Macapagal said the agreement is the signal for a shift in government policies regarding infrastructure. "From hereon," she said, "the government will put into consideration environmental factors in the infrastructure development programs."

Secretary Datumanong assured the audience that "not a single tree will be murdered," adding that the thinking in the DPWH "will no longer be a tunnel vision of just construction as has been its primary focus, but with this government-NGO partnership of institutionalizing a multi-sectoral environmental monitoring complement, this will guarantee a model of integrating ecological concerns in the planning and execution of DPWH construction projects."

This change in thinking and policy should save not only the Quezon Avenue trees but also other trees in the way of public and private construction projects, I wrote in my March 9 column. I was wrong. How short are the memories of public officials. Those agreements, new policies and promises were made only last March 6, exactly a month ago. But they have already been forgotten in the case of the pine trees in Baguio. Not only 192 trees would be murdered there but 7,000 (repeat, 7,000) big trees. What happened to the new policy? What happened to the promise of Datumanong? What happened to Environment Secretary Alvarez? Now that he is environment secretary, will he give an environment compliance certificate to the Circumferential Road?

Note that the Baguio Circumferential Road is easier to do than the Edsa-Quezon Avenue interchange which already has existing streets that have to be widened. The Circumferential Road, on the other hand, will be cut through virgin territory. It does not have to follow any existing road. Therefore, it can wind among the trees. The street does not have to be straight. It would make the Circumferential Road more beautiful, scenic and charming, like the highways in California that wind through majestic Sequoia forests.

So, President Macapagal, Secretaries Datumanong and Alvarez, how about saving those 7,000 pine trees that God took many years to grow that big? Or is the demand for pine logs and pine wood for the homes of the rich in Baguio and Tagaytay that great? That's a lot of money for the lucky contractor.

The Baguio Circumferential Road, by the way, will not be the first road to be rerouted to save trees. The Ternate-Nasugbu Highway in Batangas will be rerouted, at the request of Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, to save 3,000 trees in a national park, Mt. Palay-Palay, which otherwise would have been mowed down. Construction was stopped because the people opposed the highway if trees would be cut.

Plans for the Circumferential Road 5 (C-5) in Metro Manila have been modified to save centuries-old acacia trees behind the campus of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City. The line of trees, which would have been cut (there is also a big demand for acacia wood for wood carvings and furniture) to widen the C-5, will now be retained as a center island. The road will be widened beyond them, through the compounds of the Balara Filtration Plant, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Authority and the UP Integrated High School. Artists and environmental NGOs also opposed the construction of C-5 if the acacia trees would be cut.

So not only Baguio residents but also the whole nation should oppose the Baguio Circumferential Road if the pine trees would be massacred. But I haven't heard a peep from environmental NGOs. What are they doing to deserve the financial subsidies they get regularly from foreign countries?

* * *

By the time you read this, I'm off to my vacation. I will try to send columns wherever I am but since I would be constantly on the move, there may be stretches when there would be none. But I will be back in three weeks, on May 1, just in time for the windup of the campaign and the elections.

Meanwhile, be good. Don't believe the promises of the candidates. They'll sell their mothers just to get your votes. And don't sell your vote. The candidate who buys your vote is the official who will steal from the treasury to get it back. Vote for those whom you think are sincere and have the brains to help the nation.

San Miguel times two

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

I BUMPED into Ambassador Bienvenido Tan Jr. who was having afternoon coffee last Sunday in an establishment I also happened to be in. I have a high regard for Ambassador Tan, also the chair of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation. I therefore stood up, walked over to his table, proffered my respects and my perplexed anger at the incomprehensible decision of the Sandiganbayan to convict him. This concerned a disputed compromise over San Miguel Corp.'s tax liability. He offered to send me copies of the decision and other pertinent documents, which I have now read.

The result, as you may note, in a change in tone in this space today, is less of the usual passionate dispassion and somewhat more of a personal view of events. The truth is, I cannot understand the decision and must conclude, with Rick in "Casablanca," that the Sandiganbayan was "misinformed." Louis to Rick: "Why did you come to Casablanca?" Rick: "I came here for my health, for the waters." Louis (perplexed): "What waters? We're in the desert!" Rick: "I was misinformed."

Essentially, the Sandiganbayan has found Commissioner Tan guilty for compromising for P10 million an assessment against SMC that originally was brought by some subordinates for over P300 million. And yet, that compromise was based upon a legal challenge by SMC, a challenge upheld by other BIR subordinates, and affirmed by succeeding BIR Commissioners Ong and Chato, who refused to change the compromise and who have upheld its basis. Moreover, the Sandiganbayan cleared everyone else of any conspiracy or fault, including those who had recommended the compromise, and those in SMC who signed it, but found Commissioner Tan guilty. This is a conspiracy without conspirators. But if that is the case, why is Commissioner Tan guilty?

There are at least two other profoundly disturbing items for the rest of us in the Sandiganbayan decision. One of the reasons the assessment went up to over P300 million is because, in essence, lower BIR personnel contrived to base its computations by calculating taxes on the principal amount plus taxes: in brief, on the appalling basis that charges a tax on a tax. By endorsing this position, the Sandiganbayan, which is not qualified with expertise on taxes, is rejecting established principles of taxation and is opening all of us taxpayers to extortion by unscrupulous BIR agents using the same or a similar stratagem. It is a legal and practical mistake that the Sandiganbayan needs to address lest all businesses and businessmen in the country suffer the tax consequences.

The other matter expresses a more personal concern. The prosecutors and the Sandiganbayan appear to have stretched their arguments to beyond breaking point of either law or logic to find Commissioner Tan guilty. If they do not reconsider, we will have the worst of all possible legal outcomes. We will see honest and dedicated public servants who are trying to do their job put in jail on imagined charges or second guessing. Meanwhile, the wicked will continue to flourish.

If the Sandiganbayan sustains this view, we may eventually find honest public servants behind bars and the dishonest ones outside. What honest man will now, in the light of this decision, still wish to work for government?

My own hope is that the Sandiganbayan will be persuaded to an open-minded reconsideration of its decision, based upon facts and arguments it did not properly address in its original opinion. If they are fair, they can do no other.

Which brings me to item number two, also touching upon SMC. I am more than a little puzzled over what the government is spending its energy. Almost all of that involves figures associated with the past administration rather than with problems facing our future. It is fair that questioned acts or improprieties be examined and that those responsible are called to account. But why is so much energy now being focused on SMC?

There is the opportunity to throw out Danding Cojuangco who, by accounts of impartial observers, has run SMC well. This contrasts with the record of past government nominees, both at SMC and at Cocobank. During previous administrations associated with the present one, top government appointees in the bank reportedly treated themselves to salaries and benefits as large as P40 million each year, all while the position of the bank and the quality of its portfolio went down. And SMC up through the Ramos years had to sell its crown jewel subsidiaries to survive. That has been dramatically reversed under Cojuangco's management.

One would think that the government, as both tax collector and a claimed shareholder, would continue to have an interest in good management. The market and investors do. They are appalled at the idea of SMC being turned into a government-controlled corporation, with all that implies. This includes control over marketing and operating decisions of the country's largest corporation. Yet the administration, which says it will listen to the market and not play a direct interventionist role in the economy (the oft-proclaimed "even playing field" of yore) seems to be saying one thing and doing another.

If this is so, the lesson is clear. The way to have, and to hold, economic power is to have friends in high places. A previous administration has "cronies." An incumbent administration only has "friends." The result is that we will continue to see the use of raw economic power in politics, represented by everything from financial contributions to the use of media interests by business, to secure these ends.

If the administration is keen on breaking this cycle of old politics, now is the time to do it. Put another way, will it give us a list of friends it is actively prosecuting and enemies it is actively protecting in the interest of equal justice under law?

It is obvious that the President means well and is trying to do the best she can for her country. I can only wish I were as confident about some others in her administration. The more things change…

Who recommended the ECC for the Pulupandan coal plant?

COMMENTARY

Romana P. delos Reyes

Institute on Church and Social Issues

"NO project can push through without the social acceptability factor." Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste issued this strong statement in reference to the controversial Pulupandan coal-fired power project and the Semirara dump project when she visited Bacolod City late last month. Both projects gained national notoriety recently in the light of the widely reported spate of "midnight" Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs) issued by outgoing Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles prior to the collapse of the Estrada administration.

The ECC issued for the proposed coal plant in Pulupandan has gotten a wide range of national and international concern due to its relevance in current climate change debates raging throughout the world. But there is more to this proposed coal plant than simply the midnight ECC.

The issuance of the ECC for the Pulupandan project was recommended by three of the five members of the Environmental Impact Assessment Review Committee (EIA Revcom). The document containing this recommendation is called the EIA Revcom Final Report. The local opposers to the project have asked for a copy of this report since October 2000. While the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had refused to provide them a copy, DENR officials had little choice but to make project documents available to Greenpeace activists who held a lightning protest at the DENR main building last March 2. Greenpeace immediately sent the documents to the anti-coal plant advocates based in Negros.

The 12-page report was prepared and signed by the EIA Revcom chair, Dr. Teodoro M. Santos of the National Institute of Geological Sciences of the University of the Philippines, Diliman. It also carries the signatures of Dr. Luzviminda B. Valencia of the Sociology Department of UP Diliman and Dr. Minda P. Follosco of the Biology Department of De La Salle University. But only the name of Dr. Santos is printed on the document; the other two only affixed their signatures. Dr. Santos and Dr. Valencia visited Pulupandan twice, but Dr. Follosco did not go to Pulupandan at all.

Two members of the Revcom did not sign the review. They are engineer Miguel Bisnar of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and the late Ma. Rosario Pascasio of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB). The record of the decision of Pascasio has been unavailable to the opposers. When asked, Bisnar said that his signature does not appear on the report because he has not seen this document. However, he had sent a memo to the EMB stating his view that an ECC should not be granted to the proposed coal plant until specific policy and technical issues are resolved. Against all past procedures, the dissenting opinion was omitted in the Revcom report submitted to Environmental Management Bureau Director Peter Abaya.

The EMB and Revcom sought written position papers from the opposers. Yet, the report does not address the scientific issues and social concerns raised by the opposers in the 56-page Community Review of the EIA, which they submitted to the EMB and Revcom. These issues and concerns are also summarized in a 7-page letter that the opposers submitted to the EMB and Revcom.

One issue that is not addressed in the report is the unstable soil condition of the project site. Minutes of the Revcom meetings reveal that questions were raised on this but no response could be found in the minutes. In one meeting, the project proponents even acknowledged to the Revcom that the area is not suitable for their proposed underground coal conveyor system. The opposers, for their part, have repeatedly pointed out that the houses in the adjacent subdivision have "cracking walls and floors, and sagging floors," which are testimonies to the unstable soil condition. So, why did Dr. Santos, who is a geologist, disregard the unstable soil condition of the project site?

Aside from disregarding critical issues, the report also presents false information. For instance, it indicates that the project is included in the duly approved Pulupandan Land Use Plan. This is false! A certification from the Pulupandan Municipal Development Office, which the opposers have sent to the EMB, clearly states that the project site is within the agricultural zone of the existing Comprehensive Land Use Plan of Pulupandan.

Another false information presented in the report pertains to the opposition to the project. The report states that the opposition is limited to eight women professionals.

Why Dr. Santos and Dr. Valencia negate the broad opposition to the project is baffling. They presided over the March 2000 public consultation that was attended by more than 4,000 Pulupandanons. The people who expressed their opposition during that consultation included farmers, fishermen, vendors and housewives. The position papers signed by over 13,000 Pulupandanons were also shown to Dr. Valencia after the consultation. Many other proofs of the widespread opposition to the project, including resolutions from the neighboring towns and cities, were submitted to the EMB and the Revcom. Yet, none of these is mentioned in the report.

Moreover, the report presents an incomplete analysis of the project's potential benefits and costs. Suffice it to say here that the amounts indicated for potential benefits are disputable. Equally important, the report identifies as costs only the potential loss of sugarcane and rice production on the proposed site. It does not calculate the costs of the potential dislocation of (a) almost 1,000 households involved in fishing and its component activities; (b) some 100 homes in the nearby situation; and (c) another 47 agrarian reform household-beneficiaries who till rice farms close to the project site. It does not also count as costs the project's potential contribution to the existing toxic waste and air pollution problems in Pulupandan, which will result in the exposure of about 66 percent of the Pulupandanons to greater environmental and health risks.

The pushers of this dirty power project—Ogden, ABB-Alstom, Edison, other funders of the project, Cerilles and his cohorts in the DENR—along with those who, by their intellectual professions, abetted in the drive to impose this unwanted project on local communities, will be held accountable by Pulupandan and other Negros communities for the environmental damage, the unfulfilled promises of the project proponents and the social and economic dislocation that the project will bring should it ever operate.

'Backdoor' party-list groups

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN A RECENT "issue" of CyberDyaryo, an online news service that covers mostly NGO concerns, writer Katherine G. Andraneda asks: "Is the Comelec really powerless to stop the bastardization of the party-list system?" "The party-list system has become the convenient 'backdoor' to gain entry into the House of Representatives for spouses and children of the already politically powerful, the newly deposed, as well as retired police and military officials, and yes, more show-biz types," notes Andraneda.

The list of nominations submitted to the Commission on Elections by party-list organizations as of March 29, the deadline for the submission of nominees, "has confirmed one of civil society's greatest fears," Andraneda says. And this is: that the party-list system, which was conceived to provide the opportunity for equal representation in Congress to the traditionally marginalized and under-represented groups would be infiltrated by traditional politicians (*trapos*), including clones of former president Joseph Estrada."

"A Comelec document obtained by CyberDyaryo revealed that aside from soul diva Kuh Ledesma (a.k.a Maria Socorro Ledesma) for Pinatubo, and actor Richard Gomez for MAD (Mamamayan Laban sa Droga), a host of other personalities who can hardly qualify as marginalized, are in the list of nominees of party-list organizations accredited by the Comelec," the article observes. Among these dubious nominees are:

- Law student Abigail Binay for PDP-Laban. She is the daughter of the organization's president and former Makati Mayor and MMDA chair (and now mayoralty candidate) Jejomar Binay. Her mother, Elenita Binay is the current mayor of Makati City.
- Narciso Santiago III for People's Reform Party. He is the son of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.
- Natalia Golez for Go! Go! Philippines. "She is said to be the wife of congressman turned National Security Adviser Roilo Golez."
- Marcelo Martin Fernan Jr. for Alay sa Baynn Para sa Kalayaan at Demokrasya (Abakada), a son of the late Senate president and Supreme Court chief justice Marcelo Fernan.
- Manuel Galang Zamora III for Businessmen and Entrepreneurs Association Inc. (BEA), a relative of former executive secretary Ronnie Zamora.
- Former Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III for Lakas-NUCD-UMDP.
- Retired Police General Jewel Canson for MAD.
- Former PNP Chief Roberto Lastimoso for Pusyon (Bisaya) Pilipino.
- Retired military officer Proceso Maligalig for RAM.

* * *

THE CYBERDYARYO report also mentions "friends of deposed President Joseph Estrada" who managed to get nominated by party-list groups. Among them are Roberto Aventajado for Bagong Bayani Organization; Ronaldo V. Puno for Philippine Local Autonomy Movement (PLAM); and Estrada's infamous lawyers Edward Serapio and Fernando Chua, for the Sports and Health Advancement Foundation (SHAF). "These organizations and personalities, like MAD, are considered by civil society to be undeserving of Comelec's accreditation under the party-list system since they are perceived to be politically linked to Estrada, which defeats the purpose of the law," writes Andraneda. "But unless someone files a formal complaint questioning the qualifications of these groups and their nominees, and until a decision against these organizations and individuals (is) handed down, they cannot be removed from the roll." As it is, Andraneda observes, the Comelec cannot question the eligibility of the nominees since their qualifications are already assumed through the decision of the concerned party-list organization to include them in their list. Each party-list organization may submit a minimum of five nominees.

* * *

IN THE WAKE of criticisms leveled against these dubious and anomalous party-list groups, their defenders dismiss the critics as merely "sour graping," since some of them are deemed almost sure of meeting the 2-percent minimum requirement.

But the objections to the party-list groups "bastardizing" the party-list concept are not just your usual political intrigue. They are based on real principled arguments that go to the heart of the meaning of the party-list system, as the framers of the Constitution envisioned it.

The party-list system was meant to democratize Philippine politics, by making it possible for representatives of what are now known as the "basic sectors" to take part in the decision-making processes of government. The constitutional commissioners were all too aware of the elitist character of our political institutions. To get elected to office, one needed "guns, goons and gold" and all these could buy or coerce: popularity, name recall, a political machine, media exposure, influence and power. Certainly none of these were available to the poor and the traditionally excluded sectors, which is why very few managed to enter politics.

But what if, through the party-list system, the "marginalized and under-represented" could send their own representatives to Congress, without much need of the trappings of a campaign since voters would be asked to vote for parties and not individuals?

That vision, alas, is increasingly being clouded and obscured by the "winner-take-all" mentality of our political parties and leaders, and the unscrupulous machinations of some who wouldn't mind a "backdoor" entry to Congress, even it meant displacing those who truly deserve and need representation.

* * *

AS I said in an earlier column, while the law allows big political parties (and already influential professional organizations) to field party-list groups, it does not require them to. But banking on the conscience of politicians is apparently a futile exercise.

I had hoped that the Comelec would take the party-list system seriously enough to conduct a diligent and thorough examination of the groups seeking accreditation. But judging from some of the groups that managed to get accredited, that hope has proven to be futile. Apparently, the poll body can't even be bothered to hark to the spirit that motivated the party-list law, and stuck to the simple letter of it.

That leaves us voters, then. The CyberDyaryo list is only the beginning. It only tells you who and which party-list groups you shouldn't vote for. But choosing the party-list group you will write on your ballot calls for gifts of discernment, careful study and an examination of your personal values and aspirations for our nation.

Filipino time and Filipino surnames

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

NARCISO Claveria y Zaldua who signed himself "El conde de Manila," was governor general of the Spanish Philippines from 1844-1849. While there were many other governors before and after him, this "Count of Manila" is remembered for two landmark decrees that affect us long after his time. The first was issued on Aug. 16, 1844 that must have been quite odd to most people then. It was decreed that Monday, Dec. 30, 1844 would be immediately followed the next day by "Wednesday Jan. 1, 1845." If your birthday fell on Tuesday Dec. 31, 1844, the date disappeared from the Philippine calendar. The vain could thus claim one year off their lives. Nothing however can be better than being born on a leap year like Bro. Andrew Gonzalez whose birthday comes around only once every four years.

Claveria by the stroke of a pen and a flourish, corrected the Philippine calendar that was one day *behind* the rest of Southeast Asia. When Antonio Pigafetta, who survived the massacre at Mactan, returned to Spain in 1521, he closed a diary he kept from Day One of the Magellan expedition. Going over his notes he wondered why they "had gained one day" upon their return. Three centuries later, this discrepancy was settled at the 1884 International Meridian Conference in Washington, D.C. that created the international dateline. When "GMT" was set up, the Philippines had no need to correct its calendar because Claveria accomplished this three decades earlier.

I sometimes entertain the thought that "Filipino time," which means arriving politely late, can be connected to our being one day behind for almost three centuries and suddenly forced to make up for one missing day in 1844. For rabid nationalists who blame colonizers—Spanish, Americans or Japanese—for our weaknesses, they can now assert that Filipino time can trace its origin to Claveria screwing up our biological clocks.

From the little I have read about Claveria, he was a stickler for order, and the decree revising the Philippine calendar was just one of the highlights. Taking trips outside the comfort and safety of Intramuros, Claveria observed that the native inhabitants of the Philippines generally lacked individual surnames, making it difficult to distinguish one family from another. Conversion to Catholicism may have given people first names at baptism, but surnames were more fluid—thousands of people were walking around with the same surname. Naturally, this was a cause for concern because parish priests had to determine levels of consanguinity when a couple applied for marriage. More importantly, for Claveria, the lack of surnames made current parochial lists and the census inaccurate. Surnames provided for a census that would reflect population movements. With surnames, unauthorized migrations were checked and tax collection was made more efficient. Tax evaders hiding under different names could then be caught.

Claveria's sense of order resulted in the printed Catalogo Alfabetico de Apellidos (Alphabetical list of Surnames), a collection of Spanish surnames including indigenous names in current use compiled by the friars. This list was sent to all the heads of the provinces who then assigned names to the towns under their jurisdiction. Depending on the number of families in each town, a certain number of surnames was sent to the parish priests for distribution to the people. Assisted by the cabezas de barangay and the local elite, the families in each barangay were assembled and the father or eldest in each chose or was assigned one of the surnames on the list. Once this was noted by some government official, the heads of families were then instructed to adopt this surname and pass it on to their direct descendants. Of course, those who already carried Spanish, indigenous or Chinese surnames were allowed to retain these and pass it on to their descendants. The names of pre-colonial nobility: Lacandola, Mojica, Tupas and Raja Matanda were restricted to those who had "just title to possess them." This was not to prevent social climbers, rather pre-colonial nobility and their descendants were exempt from payment of tribute.

Those who could prove using the same surname for four generations could keep these even if these were names of Catholic saints. Two exceptions were De la Cruz and De los Santos which were too numerous to manage. According to Anding Roces, who cites no historical documentation for this assertion, if your surname is De la Cruz, your earliest ancestors were probably illiterate. De la Cruz was the surname of choice for illiterates who, when asked to sign a legal document, they simply drew a cross or an "x" over their printed names. Imagine writing out Lakingdanum or Arrespacochaga!

Going over the Catalogo de Apellidos from A to Z, I found familiar surnames like: Aberilla, Abella, Abalos, Abayari, Abad, Abadilla, Abanceña, etc. Under "A" alone were verbs like *aagawin* or *aalilain*. Surnames that were elements of bold movie titles: *aray, ari* and *ariarian*. Singsong names like *ayengyeng* and *ayingying* (resembles *halinghing*). This was worth two columns. ***(Conclusion on Wednesday)***

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Estrada's conviction could be a watershed

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

OVER DINNER hosted by a group of Western diplomats to pick the brains of Philippine "experts," the practically Filipino, Australian businessman Peter Wallace stated: "Estrada's conviction will be a watershed for this country. If he's not, I don't think this country will progress in my lifetime."

"Here's Peter again pontificating," my knee-jerk reaction was, since I'm usually skeptic of prognostications which pin future developments, which are usually complex ones, on a single event.

However, thinking more about it, I could be wrong...

Wallace's reason for his thesis was that the disgraced president's conviction will be a test whether our country could ever uphold the rule of law. Indeed, the witnesses are there, the documents are there, the media are there to be watchdogs over the entire process, and the administration in power is certainly not one to coddle Estrada.

And our difficulty in upholding the rule of law has been one of our biggest weaknesses as a nation, which has had a huge adverse economic impact. Corruption isn't, or can't be punished, so that the costs of doing business, and the costs of the necessary infrastructure, are expensive in our country. Moreover, it precludes real competition. After all, business success here often isn't a matter of efficiency, but of getting undue advantages from corrupt government bureaucrats.

Wherever one looks, it's basically a problem of enforcing our huge, complex legal infrastructure, from such trivial things as enforcing parking regulations to the enforcement of business contracts. Globalization will kill the local industry? Smuggling has already done that. The budget deficit, which threatens our economic recovery? It's been our failure to implement our tax laws. Take a look at our Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law. It's probably the toughest in the world. It practically presumes a civil servant is guilty until proven innocent, since he is automatically suspended from his work the minute the charges are filed. But is the law enforced?

Estrada's conviction and jailing could be an electric shock to the national consciousness—and the political costs won't be small—to wake us that we do have a rule of law, and we can enforce it.

The chances are better now that a corrupt ex-president could be convicted. The situation now is entirely different from that which had allowed Estrada's model in cupidity, Marcos, to go scot-free. For starters, the coup attempts against Corazon Aquino's administration had distracted it from pursuing the cases against the dictator.

And then the Presidential Commission on Good Government, tasked to pursue Marcos' conviction, turned out to be at best, amateurish, and at worst, riddled with corruption. Many of the cases filed against Marcos and his cronies were practically manifestoes written in a rush, and mostly contained only generalities. Crucial documents had been lost—or sold—as early as the PCGG's first year. And Marcos, a lawyer, certainly had more brains than Estrada, and more years after all, to hide his tracks. Who has found a Marcos account in a local bank of the Jose Velarde type?

This time it's totally different, mainly because of the impeachment trial which required the congressional prosecution panel to unearth and collect all the evidence of Estrada's corruption, all within the legal system. We have had the best legal minds to prepare the charges against Estrada. There is political stability to ensure that the pieces of evidence—and more importantly the will—to convict Estrada aren't weakened.

Yes, there will be a complex of factors in the next decade which will determine whether our country progresses or not. At this point though, Estrada's conviction and imprisonment certainly appear to be one big, factor.

I was wrong when I thought Wallace was pontificating. He was merely stating the obvious.

I almost forgot, Wallace's business is getting foreign investors here. He thinks Estrada's conviction will be the big signal for investors to jump into the country. After all, one of their most important concerns is the strength of the legal structure.

Akbayan, "Estrada: 0" endorsed

Follows is a statement of the First Quarter Storm Foundation, an association of 1970s anti-Marcos activists, of which I am a board member:

The board of trustees of the First Quarter Storm (FQS) Foundation has endorsed the Akbayan! Citizen's Action Party as a party-list representative in the May elections.

Separately, the FQS board also urged its general membership to deny the pro-Erap slate even a single vote in the senatorial elections.

On the party-list issue, the trustees believe there are only five organizations—out of a total of 161 registered groups, many of which actually make a mockery of the party-list law—which deserve support.

However, under the current rules of party-list representation, a voter can choose only one party. The FQS board therefore agreed to select just one group for endorsement, on the principle of "concentrating forces for maximum gain."

By majority vote, the board decided to endorse Akbayan! because "it has the most outstanding combination of progressive thinking, effective mass organization and activism, and substantial legislative accomplishments" to date. Akbayan! is currently represented in Congress by Rep. Etta Rosales.

With regard to the senatorial contest, the FQS trustees urged its members to totally shut out all senatorial candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa.

"Many of us have friends among the Puwersa ng Masa candidates," said the trustees. "Nonetheless, as a matter of principle, it is more important to deny any support at all to this coalition which is openly aligned with Joseph Estrada, the lineal descendant of the villainy and cupidity of the Marcos era."

The board, however, stopped short of endorsing a unanimous vote for the administration's People Power Coalition, noting that there were other independent candidates outside the PPC who might also deserve support.

* * *

The new magazine Newsbreak is proving to be a red-hot, top-notch newsweekly. The lead story of its 11th issue reports on a news development which the dailies practically ignored: The emergence of two new witnesses who point to former PNP chief and now senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson's involvement in the brutal summary execution of suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang.

One of the witnesses, Police Senior Insp. Abelardo Ramos' testimony, is devastating. He claims that he was one of the cops who shot the suspects on orders of Lacson and three of his generals. Ramos in his affidavit even quoted Lacson as telling him after he was given the order: "*Baka naman may mabuhay pa diyan.*" That would translate: "Be sure no one's left alive."

If you can't find the magazine, its cyberversion is at www.inq7.net.

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

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Ill-advised appeasement

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is ill-advised to go on granting maximum appeasement to the military and the police. These government sectors are mired in corruption, and Ms Macapagal, if she really wants to deliver good governance, should be cracking the whip as commander in chief.

Yesterday, a teenage thief was shot in cold blood by a policeman in Quezon City for running off with a cellular phone of a pedestrian. Two of the thief's accomplices were also shot and are in critical condition in the hospital. The papers reported that the dead child turned out to have been instructed by another policeman to steal the cellular phone for the latter's girlfriend. Meanwhile, in another part of the metropolis, the son of a senator was apparently caught red-handed buying drugs by lawmen but makes a quick getaway in his vehicle. Not even a warning shot was fired. The next day, the senator makes up excuses for his son's activities and stumps investigators.

There you have a stark picture of the unjust, disorganized and pathetic state of law enforcement in the country. This is also evident in the traffic violations one witnesses every day. We notice it in the spate of kidnappings and other crimes, from petty to heinous, which the police seem unable to solve or prevent from happening. In fact, ordinary citizens like me get the idea that for the police to act, one has to have either money, connections, a television camera in tow, or all three.

As for the military establishment, we have seen its might and power more often exercised in the oppression of Filipino communities, like the Muslims and countryside communities and in the protection of vested interests. How often have we seen our soldiers protecting our national interests, frequently trampled by smugglers, terrorists and foreign expansionist forces in the Spratlys? Instead we have seen military leaders who are unrepentant in perpetuating a hazing culture in their schools, so quick at helping themselves to government funds, yet woefully inadequate in countering threats to our sovereignty.

In the end, Ms Macapagal might be able to buy the support of the top brass but lose out in public support as her regime betrays the expectations of reform that brought forth People Power II.—**FRED MACUSI, 2A Matiwasay St., UP Village, Quezon City**

Going overboard with 'Live Show'

THE PROBLEM with Conrado de Quiros and other liberal writers is that they tend to go overboard when interpreting the much abused principle of "suppression of freedom of expression."

Ultra-liberals dismiss the conservatives' opposition to immorality in public entertainment as an invasion by moral terrorists. Their attacks become more acrimonious when the Christian churches condemn the sleaze and violence appearing in most of Filipino movies. They see this as a denial of the people's right to freedom of choice. Epithets fly hither and yon as they call the conservatives fascists, dictatorial hypocrites, moral terrorists, meddlers, etc.

I support liberal causes that uplift human dignity and the person's self-esteem as well as those that will change the image of the Pinoy society from its mean baseness into something morally worthy for our children to inherit.

If we allow the ultra-liberals' moral permissiveness to hold sway, the moral values of the Filipino—or what is left of it—would regress to what De Quiros describes as Manoling Morato's and Etta Mendez's Cro-Magnon type of primitivism.

We must realize the capability of the average Filipino moviegoer to deal with the concept of using sex to drive home the point of the dehumanizing effects of poverty in our society. He is not capable of fathoming the abstract social implications that the producer and the director purportedly try to convey. Ask the first Pinoy that comes out from the movie how he liked it, and he is likely to say: "*Pare, talagang maganda pala ang katawan ni Licia Delicia. Nalibugan ako.*" Enough said.—**JUAN GALLARDO, Candelaria, Quezon**

* * *

AS a concerned Filipino Muslim, I would like to say that the Catholic Church through Jaime Cardinal Sin has the moral responsibility to protect Filipinos against immorality. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who is a Christian and a leader of this nation must not tolerate any form of immorality for it is her responsibility to uphold the moral integrity of every Filipino.

To a Muslim like me, the film "Live Show" is without question immoral.

The Holy Qur'an says in Sura, "And tell the believing women to lower their gaze (from looking at forbidden things), and protect their private parts (from illegal sexual acts) and not to show off their adornment except only that which is apparent (like both eyes so that they will see the way) and to draw their veils all over and not to reveal their adornment except to their husbands or their fathers, or their husband's fathers or their sons, brothers or their sister's son."

This Qur'anic injunction prohibits Muslims from watching this kind of movie so that they may not be held liable in this world and in the hereafter.

It is hypocrisy I think to say that the sex scenes are needed in the movie for the sake of art. I do not know why they do not say that it is for money. These people are actually insulting the intelligence of Filipinos when they say on national television that sex scenes are there for the sake of art.

It is good to know that in the Philippines, you cannot find Muslim women who are in any way part of the movie industry, especially as bold actresses or producers. If there is one, then I am reminding her of Chapter 33 (Al-Ahzab) verse 59: "O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks (veil) all over their bodies (screen themselves completely except the eyes or one eye to see the way). That will be better, that they should be known (as free respectable women) so as not to be annoyed. And Allah is ever oft-forgiving, most merciful."

I strongly urge my Muslim brothers and sisters not to watch "Live Show" and similar movies which may stain the dignity of the women.

If defenders say "Live Show" is an expression of freedom, we must be reminded that the freedom of religion has a priority over other rights and this also is guaranteed by the 1987 Constitution. Now that the Church has spoken on the immorality of the movie, I think other religious sects will take the same stand.—**CHUCK SALAPUDDIN, Blk. 15, L16, Almar Subdivision, Novaliches, Caloocan City**

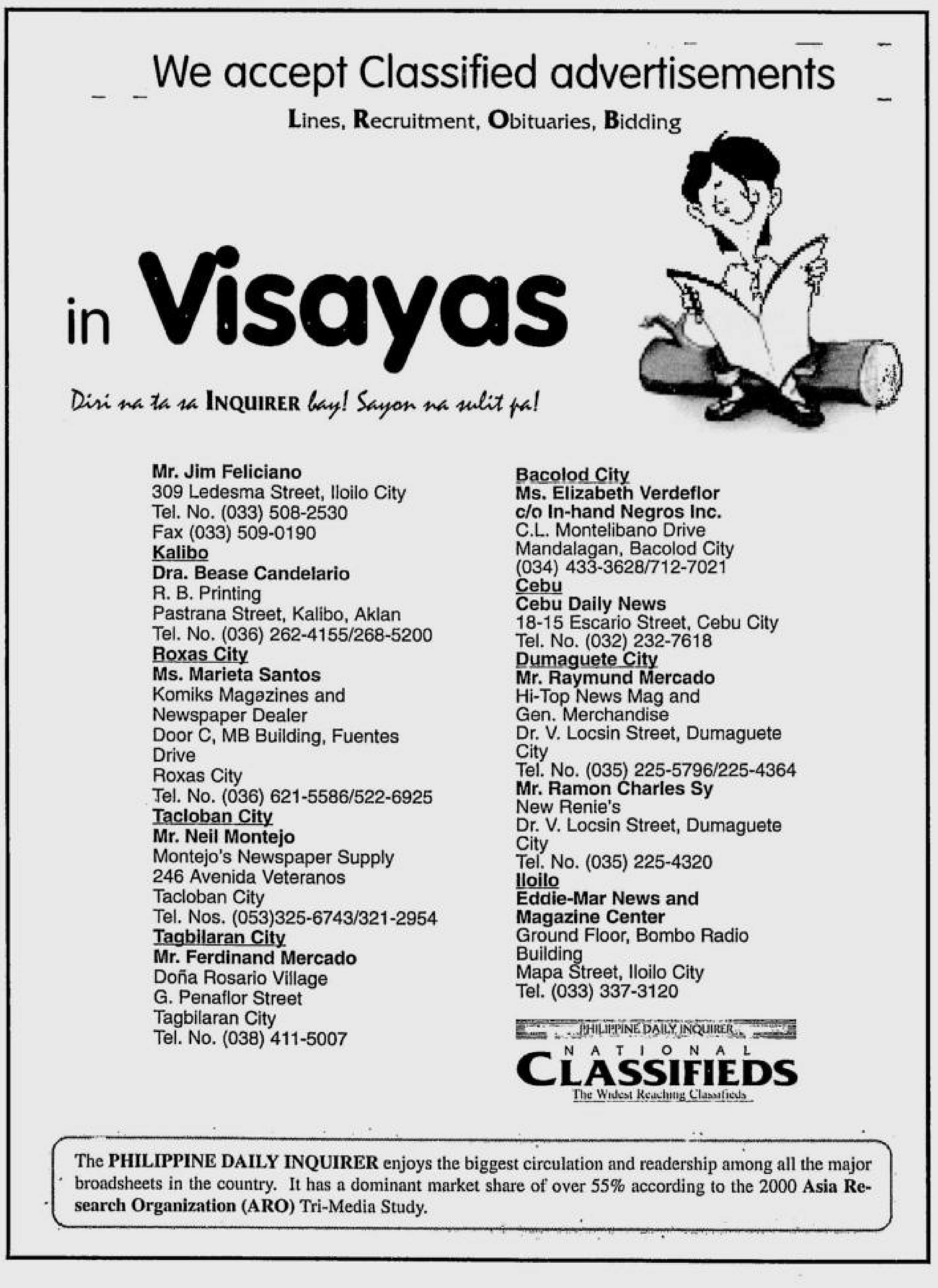
* * *

I AM very disappointed that, based on your editorial calling for the abolition of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, you seem to support the artists who are crying foul over President Macapagal's decision to ban the exhibition of the movie "Live Show." As a writer and an art lover, I am a friend of freedom of expression. But I oppose using this right as an excuse to sacrifice the common good for the sake of the hang-ups of a noisy minority—a talented minority, to be sure, but a minority just the same.

You said something to the effect that the Catholic Church's teachings should not be imposed on the Filipino populace, and that the MTRCB should not act as the guardian of morality. Let me point out that morality is not just a Church thing. There is an immutable and universal morality based on the nature of man. (Incidentally, I'm curious to find out what our Muslim brothers and sisters have to say about the "Live Show" controversy.) And just as no public official, even the President, is above the law, artists are not above the natural moral law.

Respect for this law is the foundation of a strong nation. The vast majority of Filipinos showed that they knew this when we took to the streets after the impeachment trial was aborted. We went to Edsa convinced that a corrupt president was bad for our country. I don't think anyone of us doubted that we had the right to "impose" a high standard of morality on our leaders.

We have to be consistent. The exhibition of lewdness is no less bad for our country than graft and corruption.—**CRISTINA A. MONTES, 30 Nottingham St., Hillsborough, Alabang, Muntinlupa City**



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Those protests at DOT

I HAVE been reading about the protests of the employees against Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon for the past couple of days and I have to admit that it sounds ridiculous. Humor me and picture this: a hardworking, smart, conscientious and forward-looking Filipino who wants to have a clean and beautiful environment. Shouldn't we try to copy what he's doing and let it have a roll-over effect on everybody else around us? Are we so used to all the trash and garbage under our noses that we bite at that hand that wants to clean it for us? Are we such pigs that we revel in muck? I implore you to publish this and let the people of the Department of Tourism realize what they're doing. Being in that department, they have a big responsibility toward the people of the Philippines to help beautify our country. They should start doing their jobs and stop bickering over trivialities.

One main weakness of the Filipino is his being short-sighted. He only sees what's right in front, he can't look past what's here to what it will be.—**JENICE BAUTISTA MARIANO, 81 Teresa St., Daly City, CA 94014**

Personal

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOMEONE wrote me asking if I wasn't personally worried about adult movies and pictures affecting my kids' spiritual or moral well-being.

I have a couple of kids 12 years apart. One is now working as a TV reporter and the other is a 12-year-old boy who is about to enter seventh grade. In her work, my daughter has seen a great deal of the seamy side of life, from rape to politics—which are often one and the same—and has a pretty good idea of what obscenity really means. I've never had cause to worry about the state of her mind or soul from way back when she was in college. She was independent-minded even then.

What about my 12-year-old boy? Well, to begin with, the reason some movies are called "For Adults Only" is because they are for adults. You do not show movies that are for 18-year-olds and above to 12-year-olds.

Unlike Alejandro Roces, I do not believe that only movies or TV programs or photographs or paintings that my entire family can watch should be fit for public consumption. At the very least that is so because we watch (and read) different things. Contrary to popular belief, watching "Bambi" throughout most of your adult life will not improve your mind, it will addle your brain. It will not uplift your spirit, it will dampen it. It will not save your soul—if you define soul as the length and breadth of your human potential—it will damn it forever. Dante was right to consign the tepid, the mediocre, the neither-here-nor-there to one of the circles of hell.

But I do not make a big fuss of keeping things away from my boy for several reasons. The first is practical. Which is that the appetite is not satiated by denial or suppression, it is whetted. Why the censors cannot seem to grasp that point, I do not know. By itself it is unassailable proof of their mental enfeeblement. You keep X-ing movies, or worse banning them, you will create a horrendous demand for them that will be filled up by pirates. Or by the Internet.

My boy in particular takes to the computer like fish to water, as most kids do these days. Though I have become adept at using it myself, my boy beats me there easily. A couple of years ago, he and a couple of kids his age already thought to put up a website. The possibility that I can institute safeguards in the Internet that he cannot get around simply does not exist. I make a big fuss about the evils of pornography, and I will drive him straight to it, as surely as the snake did Adam and Eve by harping on the forbidden-ness of the forbidden fruit. What do I do, stop him from using the Internet, or the computer? I suspect the self-proclaimed anti-smut groups will actually suggest that: I've seen their recommendations, one of them being to scrap sex education in schools. I leave them to their perversions.

The other reasons, though less practical, are far more vital. Chief of them is that I do not like my kid to grow up thinking sex is bad, or a sin, or a grin-and-bear-it duty toward procreation, which is what the current puritanical, inquisitorial, knee-jerk crusade against sex in movies is bound to do. Which is what many who came from Catholic schools in fact grew up thinking. I would rather err on the side of liberalism there. It is less conducive to complexes, which warp the mind and dog people the rest of their lives.

More importantly, I do not want my kid to grow up without any critical understanding of the difference between art and pornography. Indeed, I do not want him to grow up fearing the unknown, the different, the adventurous and risqué. Art at its cutting edge will always be subversive, altering as it does prevailing perceptions, questioning as it does prevailing beliefs, challenging as it does prevailing values. Some may even call it pornographic because it does so; authority invariably will. As late as the middle of the 20th century, Henry Miller's novels, "Tropic of Cancer" and "Tropic of Capricorn," were thought to be so for their graphic sexuality and vulgar language (sounds familiar?), as was Jean Genet's works, which reveled in the discovery of the sordid and repulsive. These days they are not called pornography, they are called classics.

The lines between art and pornography may not mean much to moralists, who imagine they do not exist—*pare-pareho lang 'yan*—but they do to me. And I should hope to my kids. I should think the state of their soul, or spirit, or however you call the transcendent aspect in all of us, depends on it. Which, by the way, is the true irony here. The people who profess an urgent desire to save souls do not know theirs are the ones in direst need of saving. Or, worse, those who profess a desperate need to save souls do not know they have already lost theirs.

I do take care that "For Adults Only" movies are watched only by adults in our house. But while at this, I should think there are things far more worrisome than sex in the movies and TV, however sex seems to tumble like a flood. I do not just mean the violence in them, or at least mere physical violence. A great deal of what passes for comedy in sitcoms—which the moralists deem family entertainment and good clean fun—does violence to our humanity and basic decency.

To this day, you'll still find in them crass jokes about the dark-skinned ("*negro*"), the snub-nosed (*pango*), and people of average height (*pandak*), which most Filipinos are. The humor is not always self-deprecating, it is often mean-spirited. To this day, you'll still find stereotypical depictions of Muslims as untrustworthy people, women as flighty individuals who mean the opposite of what they say or do (they really want to be dominated when they resist advances), and *mestizos* as heroes and *indios* as villains as they were in the days of the *moro-moro*. And we worry that sex in the movies, good or bad, prurient or artistic, will stunt our kids' mental and spiritual growth?

But above all, I would worry more about the example of intolerance, narrow-mindedness and pettiness being shown by the moralists on kids generally than the things they rail against. One would imagine that as people grew older, they'd learn to look at the world with more perspective, more insight, more compassion. One would imagine that they would at least not wish to inflict their own biases and prejudices on others.

I'd be deathly scared if my boy grew up to become another Manoling Morato, Etta Mendez, or Sonia Ronda. It has nothing to do with their gender or looks. It has everything to do with the state of their minds, or souls.

* * *

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The WORLD

US offers regrets, no apologies

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration offered Beijing a chorus of regrets but no apology for the collision between a US spy plane and a Chinese jet fighter. China, still detaining 24 American crew members, said it was a step in the right direction amid signs that both sides wanted a face-saving resolution.

President George W. Bush, who issued a stern warning to Beijing a day earlier, had his advisers extend the olive branch yesterday.

"We regret the loss of life of that Chinese pilot but now we need to move on," Secretary of State Colin Powell said. "We need to bring this to a resolution, and we're using every avenue available to us to talk to the Chinese side to exchange explanations and move on."

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer echoed Powell's remarks, saying, "We have expressed our concern and our regrets about that incident," but he declined China's demand for an apology. In China, a similar regrets-but-no-apology formulation was offered to the nation's foreign minister by the US ambassador.

"The United States doesn't understand the reason for an apology," Fleischer said. "Our airplanes are operating in international airspace, and the United States did nothing wrong."

An apology would imply wrongdoing by the United States, officials said, something Bush has not been willing to concede.

A senior State Department official said Powell sent a letter to Chinese Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen stressing the importance the United States attaches to the release of the 24 Americans.

Powell handed the letter to Chinese Ambassador Yang Jeichi for transmittal to Qian. Powell told Yang the United States wanted full access to the crew and also emphasized the need to resolve the issue, the senior official said, asking not to be identified. Also attending the meeting was Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

Powell, in a little-noticed comment, had said Tuesday that the crash was "fatal for the pilot of the Chinese plane and I regret that."

But the remarks Wednesday were the administration's most emphatic expressions of sympathy, designed to set the course for a middle ground that could lead to the crew's release and allow both sides to escape dangerous diplomatic territory, officials said.

Since the first day of the standoff, the president has steadily increased rhetorical pressure on the Chinese while leaving room for a diplomatic settlement. Bush and his foreign policy team debated whether he needed to make a personal statement similar to Powell's, but there were no plans for one as of yesterday afternoon.

Despite the signs of progress, both sides held publicly to contradictory positions: China called itself the "injured party" and blamed the United States for the crash while the White House called it an accident and Pentagon officials said the Chinese pilots buzzed the lumbering spy plane. *AP*

US continues spy flights despite row

WASHINGTON—The United States has continued and will continue surveillance flights by spy planes near China, because they fulfill a legitimate purpose not satisfied by satellite surveillance, the Pentagon yesterday said.

A Pentagon official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the flights were "maintained in principle, but there may be none scheduled—they vary according to what's going on."

China and the United States are engaged in a tense standoff over Sunday's collision between a US EP-3 spy plane and a still-missing Chinese fighter jet. The disabled plane and its 24 US crew members remain in China, where they made an emergency landing.

China has demanded an apology from President George W. Bush for the collision, and the "intrusion" by the US plane into Chinese airspace.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell yesterday expressed "regret" at the loss of a Chinese pilot in the collision. Moments afterward, the Chinese Embassy here called Powell's statement "very important," but there was no word yet as to whether the apparent olive branch would go far enough for China.

he United States has insisted the damaged plane and its crew be returned immediately to US soil.

Pentagon spokesperson Craig Quigley said Tuesday the United States had not ceased routine surveillance flights, and rebuffed inferences the planes were conducting clandestine activity.

"Spying to me implies espionage," Quigley said. "This was overt, routine surveillance and reconnaissance, which is carried out around the world on a pretty regular basis by a variety of nations, the United States among them."

Quigley insisted the plane flew solely in international airspace and noted that China itself operated an aircraft similar to the EP-3, though it flies closer to Chinese soil.

The incident has not prompted enough concern at the Pentagon to cause a rift in Sino-US military relations, cordial enough after recent visits to China by Pacific commander Admiral Dennis Blair and stopovers by US ships.

The Pentagon, however, has been increasingly frustrated by seeming harassment of its surveillance flights by Chinese fighter planes in the last several months, though Quigley said the harassment had not reached a point where the EP-3s had to be escorted by US fighter jets. *AFP*

Mori launches move to choose his successor

TOKYO—At a closed-door meeting yesterday on the eve of his first anniversary in office, Japan's most unpopular prime minister in decades set in motion the process of choosing his successor.

Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori ordered his second-in-command to begin making preparations for an election to replace him as leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, which dominates Japan's three-party coalition government.

LDP Secretary General Makoto Koga told journalists afterward that Mori will step down as prime minister immediately after the party poll, which media reports said will most likely be held on April 22 or 23.

"Once a new party president is chosen, naturally Mori will resign as president and prime minister," he said.

Mori hinted strongly last month that he would step down soon by calling for the LDP's leadership election to be pushed up from September. The party leader is assured of the prime ministership because of the LDP's dominant role in Parliament.

Although Mori has proved to be one of Japan's least popular leaders in decades, finding a replacement for him has been difficult.

Newspaper reports yesterday said former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto had moved into the frontrunner's position.

If Hashimoto chooses to run, the flamboyant former leader would have a virtual lock on the party presidency because he heads its largest faction and reportedly has the support of two other factions.

Junichiro Koizumi, a former health minister who had been named as a possible successor to Mori, appeared to be losing support because he has provoked distrust within the party with his calls to privatize the postal service.

Another possible candidate, Hiromu Nonaka, who is a member of Hashimoto's faction, has repeatedly said he does not intend to run.

Despite the jockeying to succeed him, Mori has held to a vow to continue conducting government business.

His three-party ruling coalition yesterday agreed on a plan requiring banks to dispose of their riskiest loans over the next two years, but did not unveil a broad economic stimulus package that had been expected. A final decision on the emergency economic package was now expected Friday.

Mori, who held summit meetings last month with US President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin, is also scheduled to continue his travels later this week, taking a boat ride to the seas off several islands Japan and Russia both claim.

But his hold on power is tenuous.

Mori's tenure, which began in April after Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi suffered a fatal stroke, has been marred by scandals and gaffes. He has repeatedly come under fire for his remarks evoking the nationalism of Japan's wartime leaders.

His public support ratings have plunged below 10 percent, making him the second-most unpopular prime minister Japan has had since World War II. *AP*

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UN court envoy delivers Milosevic arrest warrant

BELGRADE—The UN war crimes tribunal is pressing ahead with its campaign to prosecute Slobodan Milosevic, dispatching a senior official here to hand over the international arrest warrant against the former Yugoslav president.

Hans Holthuis, registrar of the tribunal based in The Hague, Netherlands, will submit the warrant "to ensure that it is served on the accused," UN spokesperson Fred Eckhard said yesterday in New York.

Holthuis, who left for Belgrade yesterday, will also discuss the status of Yugoslav charges of corruption and abuse of power filed against Milosevic after he surrendered last weekend following a 26-hour armed standoff.

The visit marks a hardening of the tribunal's stand in demanding that Milosevic stand trial in The Hague for atrocities allegedly committed by his forces against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

In addition, the tribunal plans to file charges against Milosevic for similar offenses committed during wars in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina in the last decade. Milosevic now acknowledges he financed Serb rebels fighting against independence for those former Yugoslav republics.

The senior political adviser to the tribunal, Jean-Jacques Joris, insisted that Milosevic be handed over and "it must occur immediately."

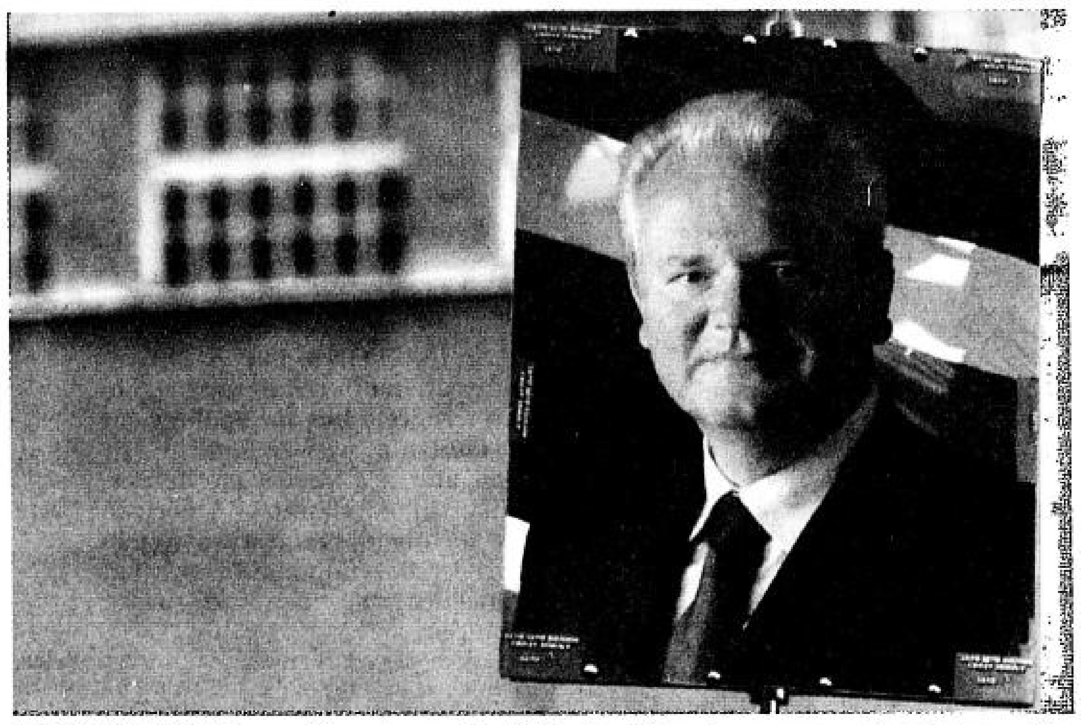
The tribunal moves came after signs that the United States and its European allies may be softening their resistance to Yugoslav demands to try Milosevic here for offenses allegedly committed against the Yugoslav people during his 13-year rule.

Following Milosevic's arrest, the administration of George W. Bush certified that Belgrade was taking steps toward cooperating with The Hague tribunal, even though President Vojislav Kostunica and others insist they have no plans to extradite the former president anytime soon.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook yesterday said Yugoslavs should "have the opportunity to hear in full the crimes committed by Milosevic against his own people," including "how he made himself rich while he made the people poor."

However, Cook added that Milosevic must eventually be handed over to The Hague to face charges "for his crimes against other people in the region." Cook linked extensive European Union aid to Yugoslavia to its cooperation with the tribunal.

Current Yugoslav regulations do not allow its citizens to be extradited for trial abroad, but the government says it is preparing a special measure on cooperation with The Hague tribunal. *AP*



A PICTURE of jailed former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic appears against windows of the Belgrade Central Prison where he was imprisoned during a protest of his supporters against his arrest outside the prison, April 4. REUTERS

Bomb exchanges in Gaza, peace talks in Greece

GAZA CITY—Israelis and Palestinians traded mortar fire yesterday in the Gaza Strip, while the two sides also held their highest-level political contacts since Prime Minister Ariel Sharon took power last month.

After a day of violence Tuesday in Gaza, the Palestinians fired four mortar shells on the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in central Gaza in the early hours of yesterday, but no one was hurt, Israel's Army said. The Army responded to the source of the fire with several mortar rounds of its own, targeting a nearby Palestinian security base.

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres yesterday met with two senior Palestinian officials, Planning Minister Nabil Shaath and negotiator Saeb Erekat, in Athens, Greece.

"We shall continue to talk. Better talking than shooting," Peres said afterward.

But Erekat warned against raising expectations. "We have different points of views in the ways we see things on the ground," said Erekat.

A three-way meeting involving security officials from both sides, along with the United States, was expected yesterday night or today, possibly on the border between Israel and Gaza, according to officials.

Also, three members of Israel's parliament met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the West Bank city of Ramallah and described the talks as encouraging.

"It is very important to have a solution under the political umbrella to achieve a reduction in the violence," said Naomi Chazan, a member of Israel's dovish Meretz party.

Tuesday's flurry of political activity focused on the immediate problem of halting the bloodshed, and not on the collapsed peace talks. Still, it was the most active day of Israeli-Palestinian political contacts since Sharon came to power in early March.

The prime minister has insisted that he will not open any peace negotiations until the more than six months of violence ends.

In Gaza, dozens of settlers from the Gush Katif settlement bloc staged a protest march yesterday morning, a day after mortars landed inside one of the settlements, spraying shrapnel that seriously injured a one-year-old Israeli boy, Ariel Yered. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Dalai Lama in Taiwan

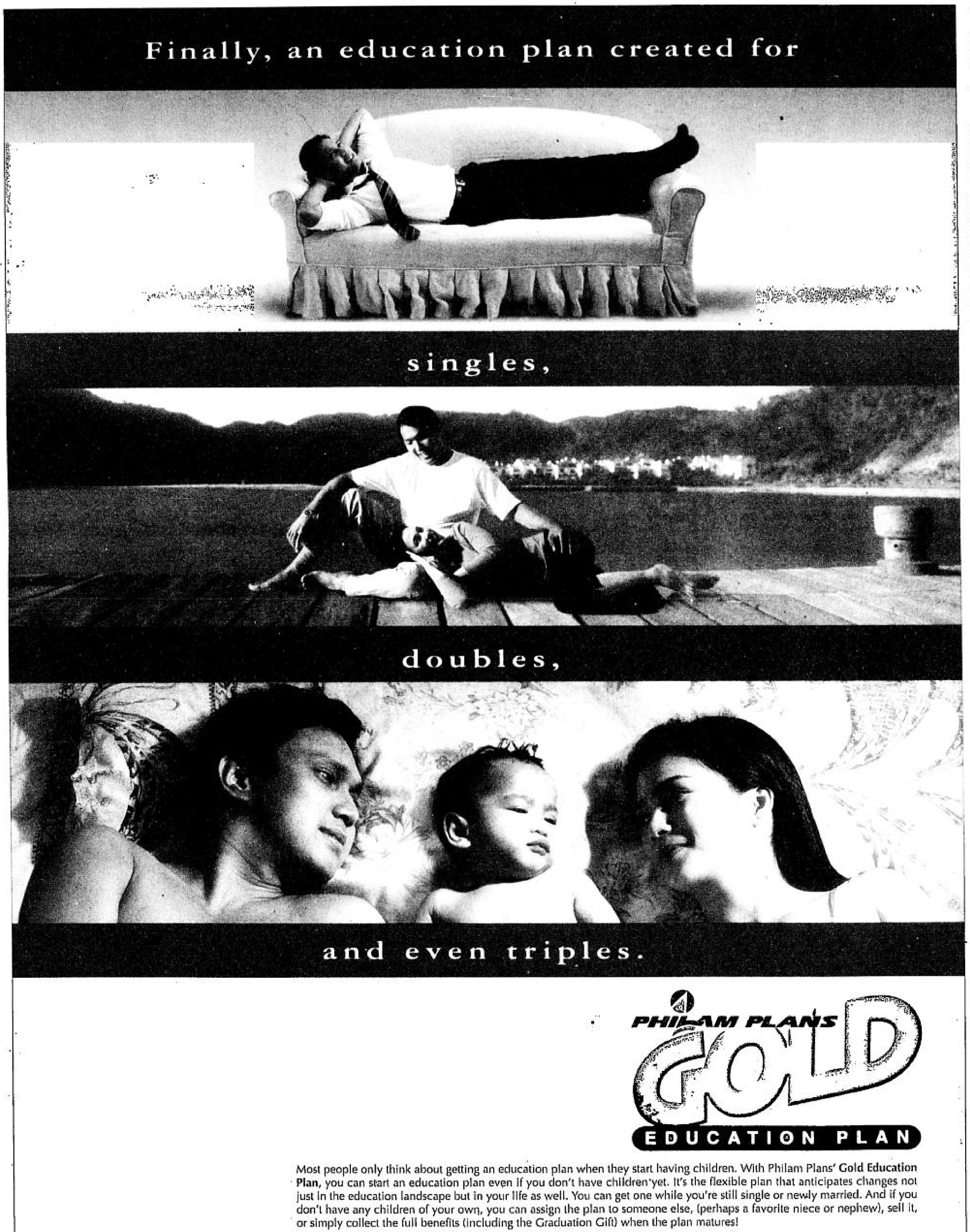
TAIPEI—In a long-awaited first meeting with Taiwan's new president, the Dalai Lama said Thursday that changes in China and the world's concern for Tibet make him hopeful about the future of his Chinese-ruled Himalayan homeland. The Tibetan spiritual leader and President Chen Shui-bian rank high on Beijing's list of distrusted leaders, and their meeting was closely watched for signs that the two would team up against China. But in the brief segment of their gathering released to the media, the two avoided sharply criticizing China. They also did not bring up the US-China dispute about last weekend's midair collision over the South China Sea. The Taiwanese president invited the Dalai Lama to his inauguration last May, but the Tibetan religious leader decided not to attend because of concerns it would rile China. *AP*

Sudan top brass killed

KHARTOUM, Sudan—In a blow to Sudan's powerful military at a critical point in the civil war, the country's deputy defense minister and 13 other high-ranking military officers were killed yesterday when their plane crashed on takeoff in the war-torn south. The plane, a Russian-made Antonov, broke in two after the plane skidded off the runway in bad weather, military spokesperson Lt. Gen. Mohammed Bashir Osman said. Osman did not explain the bad weather, but it was believed to be a sand storm. The crash took place in Adaril, in an oil-rich area 750 km of Khartoum that has been the scene of attacks on aircraft by southern rebels in the past. A spokesperson for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, Samson Kwaje, said in Nairobi, Kenya, that his group had no forces in Adaril at the time of the crash. *AP*

US secret unit honored

FORT BRAGG, North Carolina—A once-secret Special Operations unit credited with rescuing pilots and diverting the enemy during the Vietnam War was officially recognized with a presidential citation Wednesday, 29 years after it disbanded. Veterans of the Studies and Observation Group, including some active duty soldiers, were given ribbons and special coins at a ceremony here. A small group of beret-clad Vietnamese stood alongside veterans wearing special black jackets and green berets. The unit, made up of Army, Navy and Marine personnel, operated from 1964 until 1972. It had 2,000 US personnel and 8,000 indigenous mercenaries assigned to it at its peak. Its mission was to divert North Vietnam's Army, send back intelligence information, assess bombing sites and results for US planes, and rescue downed US pilots. *AP*



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Thai PM admits he can lose graft case

BANGKOK—Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra yesterday acknowledged that he could be found guilty by the Constitutional Court of financial wrongdoing, a verdict that would force him to step down.

But as long as he is in office he will work for the good of the country, Thaksin told reporters.

"I do not worry much or attach much (importance) to the position. If I go there will be someone to replace me," Thaksin said.

"As long as I have a duty to do, I will do my best. I do not worry much about my future but am more concerned about the future of the nation," he added.

The comments came after two days of poor showing by Thaksin's lawyers in the Constitutional Court where he is on trial for allegedly transferring millions of dollars worth of shares to proxies including his domestic servants to deliberately conceal his assets when serving in a previous government.

Legal experts were unimpressed with Thaksin's defense, which opened on Tuesday. His lawyer focussed more on questioning the authority and independence of the National Counter Corruption Commission that indicted Thaksin in December.

The commission ruled Thaksin had violated a mandatory asset declaration law while serving as a deputy prime minister in 1997.

If the court upholds the ruling, Thaksin would be barred from public office for five years.

The case is seen as a test of Thailand's political reforms, since it adopted a reformist Constitution three and a half years ago to fight endemic graft in politics.

AP

EU extends foot-and-mouth export curb

BRUSSELS—EU veterinary experts yesterday decided to extend until May 18 an export embargo placed on British meat and animal products because of the foot-and-mouth crisis, the European Commission said.

It is the first time that authorities have extended an embargo for such a long period, since the epidemic first appeared in Britain on Feb. 19.

Experts also extended embargoes in place on Dutch products until April 25, and on Irish and Northern Irish animal products until April 19, the Commission announced.

The experts, meeting in the European Union's Standing Veterinary Committee (SVC), also decided that all restrictions now in place on French products would be lifted on April 12 if no new cases of the highly contagious animal virus are detected in the country before then.

Britain, the Netherlands, France and Ireland are the only EU countries thus far affected by the disease.

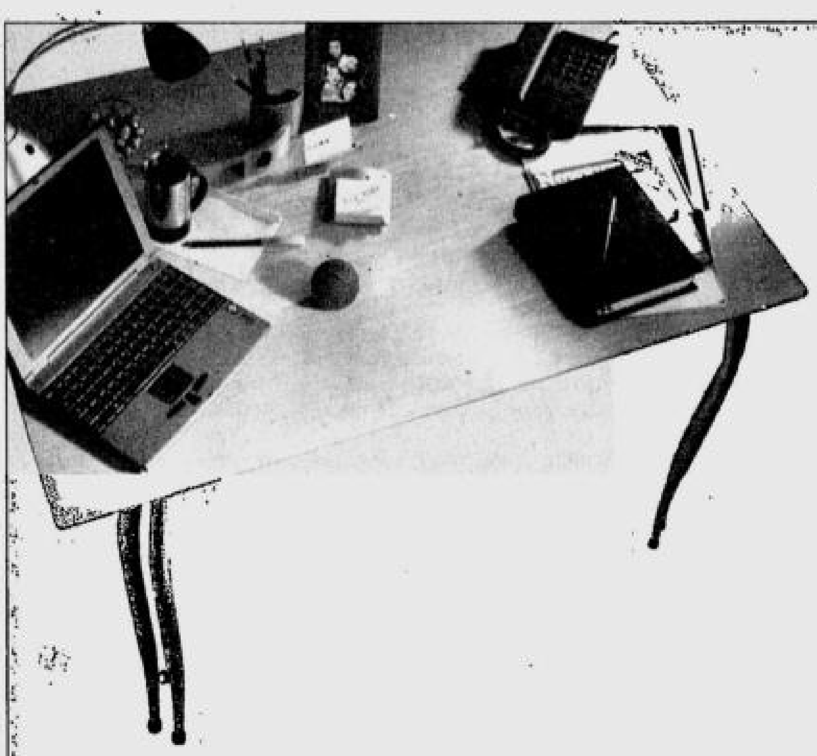
The British agriculture ministry announced earlier yesterday that the number of outbreaks in the country had risen to 1,004.

The veterinary authorities also announced an emergency vaccination program for zoo animals vulnerable to the highly contagious disease for any animal parks within a 25 km radius of outbreaks.

The program would apply to any animals on the World Conservation Union's (IUCN's) list of endangered species, including elephants, antelopes and okapis.

But the commission warned that any vaccination program—even for non-commercial livestock animals such as the endangered species—could mean the country losing its status as a foot-and-mouth free zone.

AFP



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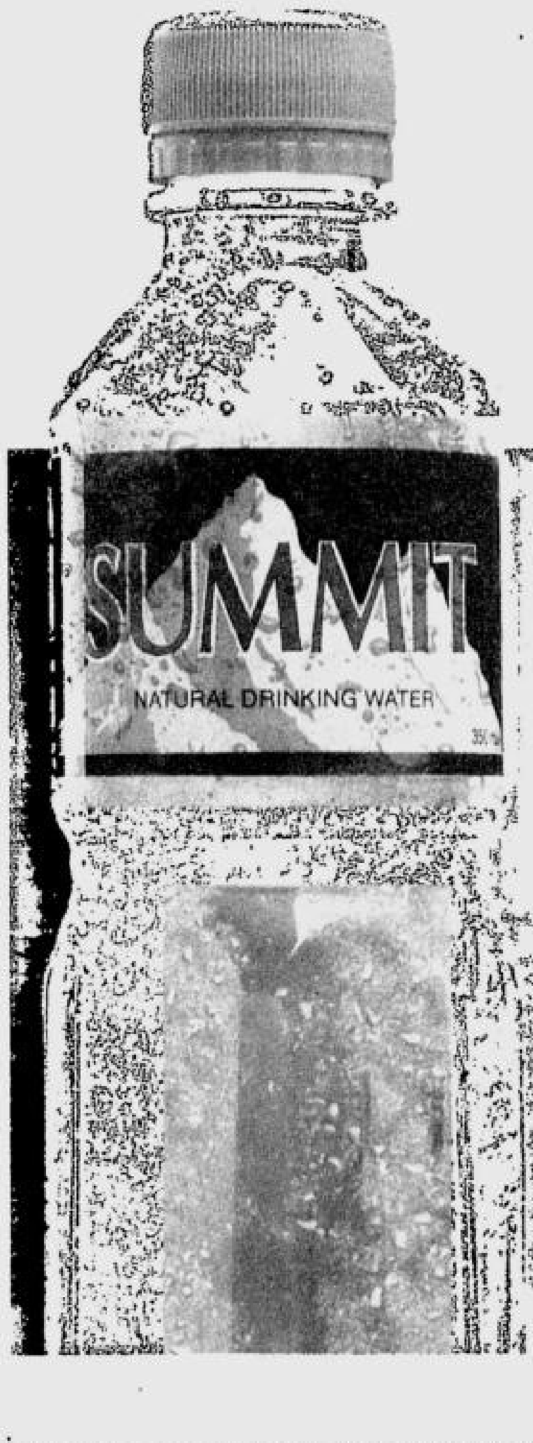

Brings You Back to Nature.

Abu calls off plan to behead 'gentle giant'

(From page A1)

Yesterday was also the first wedding anniversary of the American hostage and his Filipina wife Ivy Osani, Sabaya's cousin.

Expressing relief upon learning that her husband was still alive, Osani also said she believed Sabaya would not harm her husband "because he promised in the presence of God that he would not harm or touch my husband."

Earlier, Sabaya said on dxRZ radio: "I want to give these last words to GMA (President Macapagal) and the US government. First, happy birthday, GMA. Second, welcome to the Philippines, Mrs. Schilling.

"And third, if the US government has their policy we also have our policy," he said, referring to the United States' policy of not negotiating with terrorists.

Sabaya then abruptly cut off the telephone connection.

When he called off the beheading, Sabaya asked Carol Schilling, who arrived in Manila early yesterday, to go directly to President Macapagal to resolve the situation.

The Abu Sayyaf spokesperson said the government should "just stop the operations now, otherwise we might be provoked to execute Schilling."

But the President last night was not prepared to bargain.

"This afternoon, we received the message from the Abu Sayyaf that they have suspended the execution of Jeffrey Schilling," Ms Macapagal said.

The President told reporters:

"I now demand the immediate and unconditional release of Jeffrey Schilling and Roland Ullah," a Filipino dive resort worker held hostage by another faction of the Abu Sayyaf.

And Malacañang and military officials said the order for an all-out war against the group stayed.

Executive Secretary Renato de Villa said the government would not pull out military troops sent to make good Ms Macapagal's threat to "annihilate" the kidnappers.

"We cannot talk about the pulling out of troops. As I said earlier, we cannot just hastily change our policy. We cannot reverse the statements and order of the President to our soldiers in Mindanao," De Villa said.

Determined

Speaking to Sabaya via a phone patch set up by the radio station, De Villa said: "I will just tell (the President) the good news about the decision not to execute Schilling."

He said he was thankful the execution was not carried out. He urged the Abu Sayyaf to release Schilling and Ullah without ransom.

In a brief statement welcoming the news, the US Embassy in Manila said "this was the right decision" and urged Schilling's prompt release.

Earlier in the day, De Villa said the government would not negotiate.

"It's a policy in government that we do not negotiate with terrorist groups and criminal groups, lest we just encourage their kind to grow," he said.

In a separate interview, presidential adviser on the peace process Eduardo Ermita agreed, saying that the policy had the full backing of the Macapagal Cabinet.

"It is just right for the government to show that it has the will to execute all its policies against terrorists," he said.

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, who was in Zamboanga City Wednesday night, said the government was "determined to end this crisis."

7 months of tears

After seven months of tears, Carol Schilling arrived in Manila around 5 a.m. yesterday.

Fingering a photo featuring Jeffrey's bearish grin, the 51-year-old accountant struggled to recount happy times in California as she started a grim wait yesterday.

Ms Schilling, who has turned to two therapists in her struggle to cope, said she believed the kidnappers were serious, even though Abu Sabaya has set—and missed—several deadlines to kill Schilling in an attempt to allegedly extort a $10-million ransom.

The Abu Sayyaf had threatened to behead Schilling if the government would not allow the group to hold talks with the Saudi Arabian ambassador in Manila.

The kidnappers have issued a series of changing demands, including the release of World Trade Center bomber Ramzi Youssef.

Ms Schilling pointed out that the Abu Sayyaf executed two Filipino teachers held hostage last year to mark the April 19 birthday of then President Joseph Estrada.

The captive's mother last saw Jeffrey a year ago before he left for his first foreign trip—to find a wife in the Philippines on advice of a roommate who had married a Filipina.

The most recent photo she has seen of her 6-foot, 250-pound son was published in December in the INQUIRER.

The photo, taken at an Abu Sayyaf jungle camp, shows an unkempt Schilling standing in a straw hut, holding up his now greatly oversized trousers with one handcuffed hand.

With his other hand, the "gentle giant" flashes a middle finger at the camera.

Oplan Janus

Sabaya Sarmiento, who claimed to be the government's official negotiator with the Abu Sayyaf, told Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Sabaya yesterday that two battalions of Army soldiers were pulled out of Jolo two weeks ago to pave the way for negotiations.

Sarmiento said the pullout of troops was made as a confidence-building measure for negotiations.

But instead, thousands of troops fanned out yesterday across Jolo in a massive operation aimed at rescuing Schilling.

About 1,000 soldiers raided one suspected Abu Sayyaf hideout near Patikul town early Thursday only to find the jungle camp empty except for some pots and pans, military officials said.

Hours earlier, Sulu police chief Candido Casimiro said intelligence indicated Schilling was held hostage in that camp.

The Abu Sayyaf, thought to number 1,200, says it is fighting for an Islamic state in Mindanao, but is widely perceived to be little more than a network of bandits and kidnappers.

Soldiers belonging to the 4th Scout Ranger Battalion were flown to Sulu from Cagayan de Oro as reinforcements, bolstered by reconnaissance helicopters, armored personnel carriers and howitzers.

Two Navy gunboats also anchored off the island, apparently to prevent the kidnappers from escaping.

Task Force Trident spokesperson Col. Jovenal Narciso said that the offensive against the Abu Sayyaf was dubbed "Oplan Janus" and had two approaches—combat and civil-military operations.

Hundreds of soldiers swarmed the capital of Jolo town. In groups of 10 or so, they guarded Roman Catholic churches and the main cathedral. Officials warned foreigners to stay out of the countryside for fear of more kidnappings.

Soldiers, many carrying machineguns, provided security escorts to all priests in the town on rumors that the Abu Sayyaf plans to kidnap Catholic religious figures.

The troops have had no contact with the rebels over the past 24 hours, said Southern Command spokesperson Lt. Col. Danilo Servando.

'Betrayed'

Officials have been puzzled by Schilling's relations with the Abu Sayyaf amid reports that he connived with the kidnappers to fake his abduction when he walked into their camp on Aug. 28 last year. But both governments said they consider him a hostage.

Intrigued by a high school religion course, Schilling converted to Islam and obtained a degree in Near East Studies from the University of California in Berkley.

He told his mother he couldn't find a suitable bride in the United States with similar religious beliefs.

Carol said her son met 25-year-old Osani last year through a contact in Mindanao. "He called me up one day and said 'I've met a woman and I'm getting married tomorrow.'"

Ms Schilling said her son grew curious about his new in-law and eventually visited Abu Sabaya's camp.

"They were continuously inviting him to come out and he felt, because of religion, he could make an impact on how they were conducting themselves," she said.

"They betrayed him," she added.

US Embassy spokesperson Thomas Skipper said the mission was trying to arrange a meeting between Ms Schilling and an official of the Macapagal administration.

"We take all threats to American citizens very seriously. We don't know if it is true or not but we take it seriously," Skipper said before the Abu Sayyaf backed off from its threat to execute Schilling. *Reports from Inquirer wires; Julie Alipala-Inot, Jonathan F. Ma, Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Armand Nocum, Rocky Nazareno, and TJ Burgonio*

Erap in jail a 'security nightmare'

(From page A1)

Estrada would receive no favors if incarcerated.

But if the jail officials had their way, they would rather see the potentially most famous inmate in the country detained in another prison in Metro Manila.

They dread the prospect of the ousted leader, who faces plunder and other charges, behind the bars of their jail, pointing out that his presence would create "a security nightmare" for the entire Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

Imagine a hundred visitors, including prominent officials, streaming into the jail each day, not to mention a hundred pro-Estrada supporters holding a vigil outside.

"That's chaos," a jail official panted nervously.

The official suggested the Metro Manila Rehabilitation Center in Bicutan, Taguig, or the Makati City jail as better detention centers for Estrada, since these are more spacious and have better facilities than the Quezon City jail.

The jail warden, Supt. James Labordo, who was on leave yesterday, had earlier made the same proposal.

Not a cell to self

Estrada may have a reputation for building luxurious mansions, but he won't even get a cell to himself if he is confined at the congested, seedy jail, according to the first prison official, who asked not to be named.

Like any ordinary inmate, Estrada will have to share a cell and lie alongside other prisoners because the slammer is overcrowded as it is, the official said.

"He won't be given special treatment here," he said, amid talk at the jail that "someone" was making special arrangements with prison officials to reserve a separate cell for the deposed leader.

A total of 1,828 inmates, including over 150 women, share 40 cramped, poorly ventilated cells at the jail, making it the second most populated prison in Metro Manila. The first is the Manila City Jail.

The Quezon City jail, which squats on a property at the back of Central Police District Station 10 along Edsa, was designed to hold 650 people.

Officials have said that Estrada would likely be detained there if arrested.

One of them

Unlike the jail officials, some inmates, however, welcomed Estrada's possible detention there.

One inmate, who has been imprisoned for the last six years on charges of kidnapping with murder, said the inevitable media coverage would expose the prison's deplorable conditions and prompt authorities to take action.

"The government would find out about the congestion and poor ventilation here—and hopefully, do something about it," he said.

Besides, the 44-year-old inmate added, most of his fellow jailbirds relish the thought of rubbing elbows with Estrada, a former actor.

"He's a celebrity. He's one of us," the prisoner said.

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Course	Module	Class Start	Class End	Time
Creative Producer 01	Adobe Photoshop	29 Mar 01	30 Mar 01	8:30 – 05:30
Creative Producer 02	Macromedia Dreamweaver 3.1	09 Apr 01	11 Apr 01	8:30 – 05:30
	Macromedia Fireworks	12 Apr 01	13 Apr 01	8:30 – 05:30
Creative Producer 03	Macromedia Flash 4.0	19 Mar 01	22 Mar 01	6:00 – 10:00 / EV
	Building Web Documents using HTML	02 Apr 01	04 Apr 01	8:30 – 05:30
	Macromedia Dreamweaver 3.1	09 Apr 01	11 Apr 01	8:30 – 05:30
	Macromedia Fireworks	12 Apr 01	13 Apr 01	8:30 – 05:30
E-Primers	2200 E-Commerce Planning	19 Mar 01	22 Mar 01	6:00 – 10:00 / EV
Java Course	Java Script Programming	26 Mar 01	28 Mar 01	8:30 – 05:30
	Java Programming for Beginners	29 Mar 01	30 Mar 01	8:30 – 05:30
	Migrating to OO Programming	02 Apr 01	06 Apr 01	8:30 – 05:30
	Java Programming	09 Apr 01	13 Apr 01	8:30 – 05:30
Networking Courses	LAN/WAN Architecture	16 Mar 01	21 Mar 01	8:30 – 05:30
	TCP/IP Concepts and Practices	22 Mar 01	26 Mar 01	8:30 – 05:30
	LAN Problem Determination:TCP/IP Networks	27 Mar 01	29 Mar 01	8:30 – 05:30
	Internetworking Devices	30 Mar 01	03 Apr 01	8:30 – 05:30
	Intermediate Networking Skills	04 Apr 01	05 Apr 01	8:30 – 05:30

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Rachmaninoff
Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, op.18

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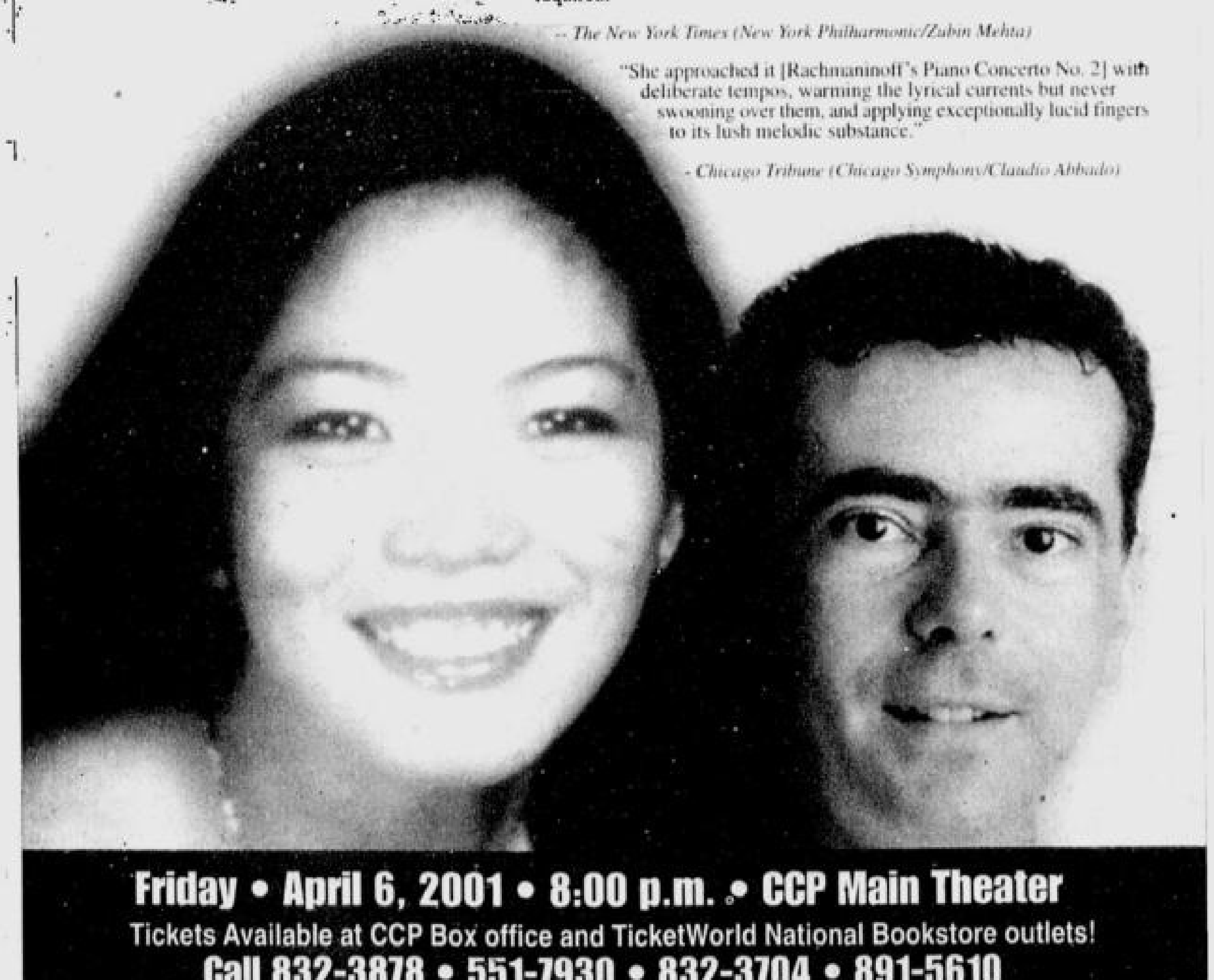
-- The New York Times (New York Philharmonic/Zubin Mehta)

"She approached it [Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2] with deliberate tempos, warming the lyrical currents but never swooning over them, and applying exceptionally lucid fingers to its lush melodic substance."
- Chicago Tribune (Chicago Symphony/Claudio Abbado)



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April 4, 2001

TO: **THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**
Bataan Refiners Union of the Philippines (BRUP)
Petron Bataan Refinery
Alangan, Limay, Bataan

We wish to advise that the labor dispute at the Petron Corporation Refinery Division in Limay, Bataan, (the subject of the March 29 strike vote of the BRUP), docketed as Case No. NCMB-RO3-NS-03-11-01, has been certified by Sec. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas of the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) to the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) for compulsory arbitration in an Order dated April 3, 2001. The dispositive portion of said Order reads as follows:

> **"WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, This Office hereby CERTIFIES the entire labor dispute at the Petron Corporation-Refinery Division to the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) for compulsory arbitration pursuant to Article 263 (g) of the Labor Code, as amended.**
>
> **"Accordingly, any strike or lockout is strictly enjoined. The parties are directed to cease and desist from committing any or all acts that further worsen the situation."**

The Officers and Members of the BRUP are thus enjoined to comply with the directives of the Order. Otherwise. Management shall take the appropriate action pursuant to law.

PETRON MANAGEMENT

MESSAGES

Warmest greetings to the Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc. (PAMPI) on its Induction Ceremonies.

I commend the PAMPI, one of the leading representatives of meat processors in our country, for its 11 years of existence and meritorious accomplishments. The theme, "Forging Partnerships with the Farmers and the Government to Ensure a Sustainable Food Security," bespeaks of the association's dedication to promote the growth and progress of the meat processing industry and foster a more dynamic business environment.

I laud this partnership being forged with the agricultural sector and the government. This collaboration will certainly create opportunities for members of PAMPI to further their achievements and ability to provide better products and services to our countrymen. I hope PAMPI will continue with its commitment to high product standards, work hard for sustainable development and steer the local meat processing industry to become globally competitive as well as ensure the accessibility of safe and high quality processed meat for Filipinos.

Congratulations to the new set of officers, I urge the PAMPI to join me in steering our nation towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Let me convey my warmest felicitations and congratulations to the new officers and members of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. (PAMPI) on their Induction.

I commend the commitment of PAMPI to upgrade its food standards and safety to meet international standards. Amidst pressures of trade liberalization, worthwhile efforts in this regard will effectively ensure their survival in this highly competitive enterprise. The steadfast resolve of 38 meat processors, representing 85% of the meat industry, to unite to achieve these objectives in partnership with the government is an undertaking worthy of emulation by other sectors in the country.

I exhort the members of this eminent association to effectively harness the diverse opportunities provided by globalization to their own advantage and to resolutely aim for excellence in meat processing.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

TEOFISTO G. GUINGONA, JR.
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

Warmest congratulations to the new set of officers and directors for 2001 of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc. (PAMPI)

Through the years, your group has proven to be a strong and reliable partner of the Department of Agriculture in hastening the growth of the country's meat processing sub-sector and in general the entire animal industry.

With a current membership of 38 companies representing over 85 per cent of the meat processing industry, PAMPI has indeed become one of the key private sector aggrupations that has been assisting government to attain our joint vision of agricultural modernization characterized with sustainability, equity among various stakeholders, and true empowerment of the small farmers and fisherfolk.

Your chosen theme for this year's affair, ***"Forging Partnerships with Farmers and the Government to Ensure a Sustainable Food Security,"*** reflects your organization's continued commitment to be a strong and steady partner of government in our various programs designed to uplift the socio-economic standards not only of our farmers and fisherfolk but also of all our fellowmen.

Congratulations! Mabuhay ang PAMPI!

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

Marking this 12th Anniversary of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc. could very well be the most meaningful year for PAMPI. There has never been a time as turbulent as the one our sector is going through.

Still reeling from the economic difficulties and political instability that our country experienced in the year 2000, the phyto-sanitary issues that we are now faced with are now collectively delivering an even stronger blow at our processed meat sector. Coming together to our anniversary affair will provide our members, their guests and friends, and other industries allied with us the opportunity to share amongst ourselves possible solutions to the industry's difficulties.

We look very much forward to this colloquium with the Secretary of Agriculture in tonight's affair as we have the chance to hear from him the guidelines and directions of Agriculture for the millennium.

As we induct our new set of directors and officers for the year 2001, we will at the same time be bestowing upon them all the encouragement and support they will need to steer PAMPI through this tumultuous period. On the other hand, I ask all the members of PAMPI to seize this opportunity of showing to our public our resiliency and fiber quality to weather problems, that trade competitors can and do work together for the survival and viability of the total industry.

On behalf of the association, we thank all our sponsors, patrons, and friends for all the support they have unselfishly given to us.

Thank you.

FELIX O. TIUKINHOY, JR.
President
Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc.

ON THE OCCASION OF IT'S 12TH ANNIVERSARY

The Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc. (PAMPI) Inducts its Officers and Directors today.

The Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc. inducts its 2001-2002 officers and directors today coinciding with the association's 12th anniversary.

To be inducted officers are PAMPI President Felix O. Tiukinhoy, Jr. of Virginia Foods, Inc.; Vice President Teodoro T. Po of The Pacific Meat Company, Inc.; Secretary Emil V. Familar of Swift Foods, Inc.; Treasurer Fil D. Gementiza of Leslie Food Corporation; and Public Relations Officer Jerome D. Ong of Foodsphere, Inc.

The directors to be inducted are Cezar D. Cruz Jr. of Monterey Foods Corp.; Sammy M. Dalisay Jr. of Jollibee Foods Corp; Leonides A. Uylangco of The Purefoods-Hormel Company and Amy N. Warner of Vitarich Corp. Francisco J. Buencamino continues to be the association's Executive Director.

This year's theme, ***"Forging partnerships with the farmers and the government to ensure a sustainable food security,"*** underscores the association's commitment to provide safe and processed meat products that are guaranteed with the highest quality.

PAMPI has aligned itself with the government and farmers to ensure that all raw materials comply with the government's strict requirement for food safety.

The association is tasked to face the enormous challenge of ensuring safety and quality of meat products particularly with the recent scare created by the mad cow and foot and mouth diseases.

"The scare will surely hurt the industry but we at PAMPI assure the public that we have not imported beef from any country in Europe since the ban against such importation was imposed by the Department of Agriculture. Our imported beef and pork are mainly from countries which have been declared disease-free," he explained.

Speaking in behalf of the 38 member-companies, executive director Buencamino assured the consuming public of the safety of all processed meat products.

"We assure the public, in general, and our customers, in particular, that PAMPI and all its member-companies stand behind our products and ensure the consuming public the safety and high quality of our products. Consumer protection, safety and good health are our foremost concern."

PAMPI as an organization believes that it has achieved a mark in creating a meaningful industry and likewise a unified business sector.

"PAMPI as a whole has created a voice for our sector in terms of government policies, industry arrangements for market development, and even credit programs. We were able to influence the industry to enhance and upgrade facilities to meet global standards."

"Alongside this, we were able to foster friendly competition among each other, and combine our resources together when there are common issues to face," Buencamino said.

Buencamino emphasized that "All our raw materials have passed the rigid inspection of the National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) of the Philippines as well as the International Standard of quality imposed by the exporting countries and are truly fit for human consumption."

"We convey our assurance to the consuming public that all our raw materials used in the manufacture of meat products such as hams, bacons, hotdogs, hamburgers, sausages, corned beef and similar delicacies are free from any disease."

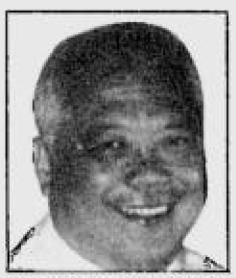
As a testament to the association's concern for the highest quality product, the meat processing industry of the Philippines is composed of companies which are ISO-certified plants. ISO stands for International Organization for Standardization which requires that ISO-certified companies must be able to document and track down the process they adopt in compliance with good manufacturing practice to maintain the highest degree of food safety and security.

"Our processed meat industry is ahead, our products on shelves are far better packaged, our quality is globally accepted and our facilities and equipment are continuously modernized."

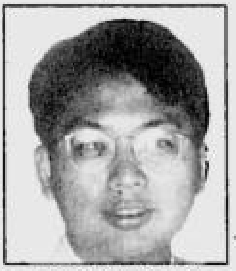
Buencamino said that total consumption of fresh processed and canned meat products may have reached a combined volume of 30 million kilos valued at P 30 billion last year.

"We are growing in size and we expect to increase to increase our growth rate every year. As a business sector, PAMPI hopes to increase its growth in volume of consumption to at least 20 percent a year despite the pressing issues of the times," he said.

PAMPI is a non-stock, non-profit organization which was founded in March 1990 to serve as the processed meat industry's voice in matters affecting its growth and development.



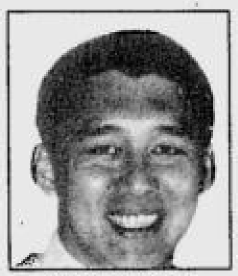
FELIX O. TIUKINHOY, JR.
President



TEODORO T. PO
Vice President

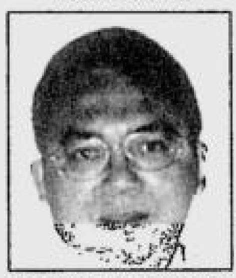
EMIL V. FAMILAR
Secretary

FIL D. GEMENTIZA
Treasurer



JEROME D. ONG
PRO

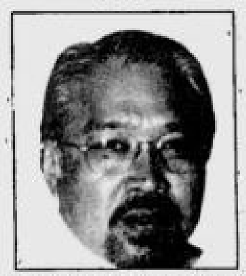
CEZAR D. CRUZ, JR.
Director



SAMMY M. DALISAY, JR.
Director

LEONIDES A. UYLANGCO
Director

AMY N. WARNER
Director



FRANCISCO J. BUENCAMINO
Executive Director

INDUCTION CEREMONIES

I. Cocktails / Fellowship	
II. Dinner	
Entertainment	Spirit of '67 Band Ms. Fay Gementiza
III. Program Proper	
A. National Anthem	Spirit of '67 Band
B. Doxology	Emil V. Familar *PAMPI Secretary*
C. Welcome Remarks	Ted T. Po *PAMPI Vice President*
D. Introduction of members & guests	Chiqui Diy *PAMPI Secretariat*
E. Presentation of new officers & directors	Chiqui Diy
F. Induction of new officers & directors	Hon. Leonardo Q. Montemayor *Secretary, Department of Agriculture*
G. Acceptance speech	Felix O. Tiukinhoy, Jr. *PAMPI President*
H. Introduction of guest of honor	Francisco J. Buencamino *PAMPI Executive Director*
I. Keynote speech	Hon. Leonardo Q. Montemayor
J. Presentation of plaque	Felix O. Tiukinhoy, Jr. Ted T. Po
K. Closing Remarks	Leo A. Uylangco *PAMPI Director*
IV. Ballroom Dancing / Entertainment	Spirit of '67 Band

Masters of Ceremonies:
Angie Castillo, *PAMPI Member*
Sammy Dalisay, *PAMPI Director*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Idle co-ops warned

DIGOS CITY—The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) in Central Mindanao said it would recall the accreditation of cooperatives which have not been operating in the past two years. Rosalinda Villaseca, CDA regional director, said a total of 1,331 cooperatives are in danger of being dissolved for their failure to submit their performance reports for the past two years. The CDA requires cooperatives to submit this report every year, as basis for the continuation of their accreditation. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Robbery suspect killed in De Oro

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A joint team of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), police and Army soldiers killed a suspect in the killing of a bank executive who was held up along the highway between Bukidnon and Davao City on Feb. 14. Lawyer Jose Limmayog Jr., NBI director for Northern Mindanao, said they also arrested two members of the robbery gang who held up and murdered Ibra Alonto, vice president of the Land Bank of the Philippines. Alonto, 46, was traveling from Davao to Cagayan de Oro when armed men stopped his red pickup in Barangay Lorega, Kitaotao town in Bukidnon. After taking P30,000, the armed men shot Alonto and his companion, Lowell Mallorca, a Land Bank technical assistant. Alonto died but Mallorca survived with a wound after playing dead. Limmayog said the suspect, a certain Salem Dalocon, died in a shootout with members of the Bukidnon police. Two other suspects, Dalocon's brother, Richard and his father, Bentillo, were arrested. *Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ateneo homecoming

THE ATENEO de Tuguegarao's annual big bash beckons to all blue-blooded alumni. Come relive the exuberance of youth and spike the old animo in the April 28-29 homecoming in Tuguegarao. Expected are Frs. Hilario Belardo, James O'Donnel, Antonio Olaguer, Emmanuel Non and Simplicio Sunpayco. Jubilarians are members of Class '51 and Class '61. Activities start after the 9 a.m. registration at the St. Louis (formerly Ateneo) gym. There would be a wreath-laying at the tomb of Msgr. Jurgens at the cathedral, lunch, a general meeting and a visit to the Virgin of Piat. A bonfire would be held on April 28.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 3° Lo 22°	Baguio Hi 25° Lo 14°	Tuguegarao Hi 32° Lo 21°
Laoag Hi 32° Lo 21°	Clark Zone Hi 31° Lo 23°	Tagaytay Hi 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi Hi 31° Lo 25°	Bacolod Hi 31° Lo 23°	Roxas Hi 31° Lo 26°
Cebu Hi 31° Lo 24°	Tacloban Hi 31° Lo 25°	Gen. Santos Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga Hi 31° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 23°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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Consumers promised lower electricity rates in May

BY CARLA GOMEZ AND JANI ARNAIZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Although there was initial confusion on which electricity fee was being removed, consumers could expect a reduction of at least P45 in their monthly power bills.

The Department of Energy (DOE) clarified on Wednesday that it has not suspended the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which power distributors collect from consumers to pay for systems losses, increases in fuel rates, foreign exchange rate fluctuations and other losses.

What the National Power Corp. was freezing was the Power Purchase Cost Adjustment (PPCA), fees that are collected from power distributors by the Napocor to pay for increases in rates of electricity generated by independent power producers.

Debbie Diokno, DOE spokesperson, said the PPCA would be reduced by 20 centavos.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo announced in her speech in San Francisco, Southern Leyte on Tuesday that it was the PPA that would be reduced to 20 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

Although a reduction would add P600 million a month to the Napocor's P225 billion deficit, she said she had told Energy Secretary Isidro Camacho that "we have to sacrifice until such a time a solution would have been found."

But what Ms Macapagal announced in San Francisco was contrary to what she said during a multi-sectoral meeting in Bacolod City Tuesday afternoon.

Speaking before a crowd of 1,000 people, the President said she had ordered the reduction of power rates by 20 centavos on top of the suspension of the PPA.

In a press conference later in the evening, she told reporters that "not only are we suspending further increases (in power rates), we are giving a relief of 20 centavos."

"It's a suspension plus relief," she said when asked whether the PPA was suspended or not.

"My instruction is to the (Napocor) because it is the Napocor that charges the PPA," she said.

Quoting Camacho, Diokno said the PPCA cannot be scrapped entirely because it will cause the "death" of the Napocor before the passage of the Omnibus Power Bill.

Joselito Reyes, manager of the Napocor office in Naga City, said the suspension of PPA collection will mean billions of pesos in losses for the Napocor.

Reyes said he found it puzzling that the rate reduction was announced during an election period.

"If there is relief on the part of the consumers, it is because they are unburdened for a few months but at the same time they will be paying the PPA in the succeeding months," he said.

Reyes said the PPA was a result of contracts with independent power producers that he described as "onerous."

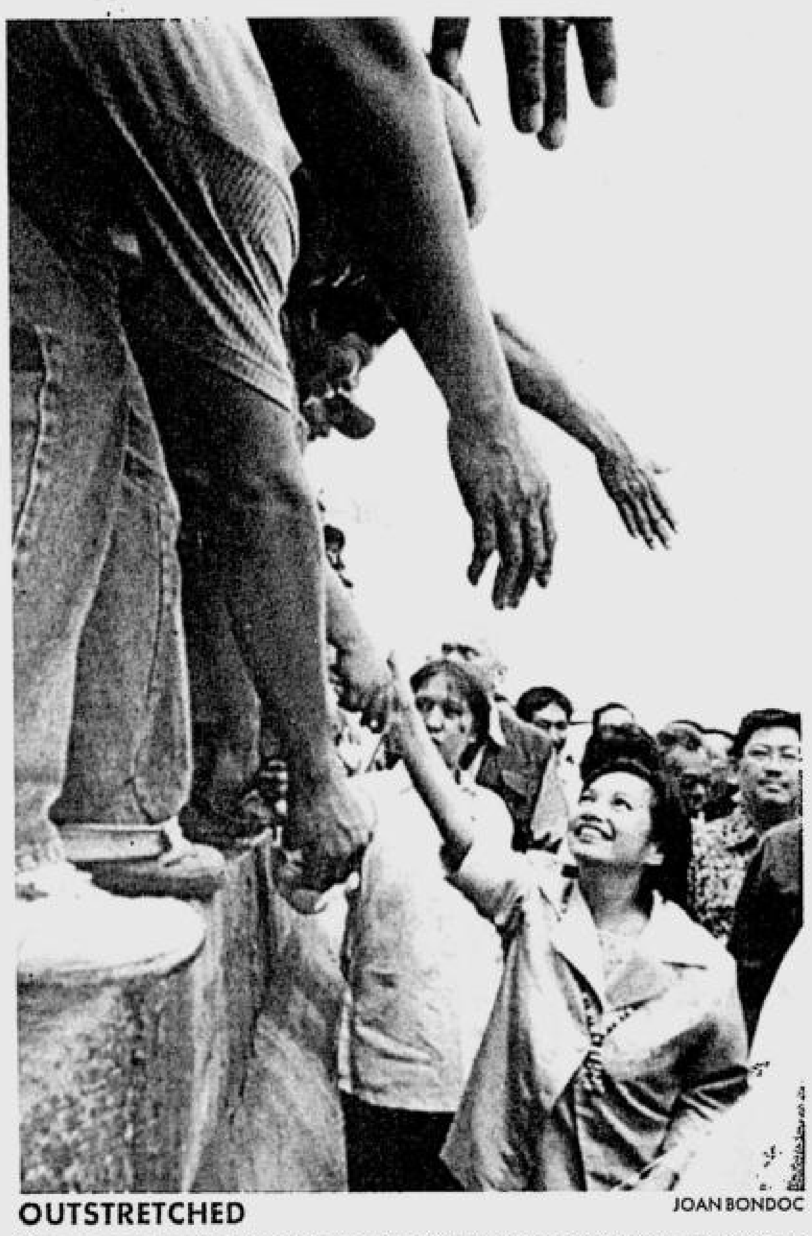
"The Napocor is forced to buy power from the IPPs even when not needed because it was stipulated in the contract between the government that it should be paid. The Napocor subsidizes the IPPs," Reyes said.

The Omnibus Power Bill, which is being endorsed by Ms Macapagal, provides the privatization of the Napocor.

A Philippine Information Agency statement said the Napocor agreed to reduce the PPCA and the amount reduced would be reimbursed to power distributors for electric bills collected in March.

Electricity consumers were expected to enjoy the reduction in May, provided that power distributors would pass on the reduction to consumers.

"The adjustments will translate to a total reduction of about P45 in the billing statement of typical Filipino households consuming about 200 kilowatts per month totaling P800 roughly per month," the PIA statement said. *With a report by Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



JOAN BONDOC

OUTSTRETCHED

Size doesn't matter if you're the President of the Philippines. Diminutive President Macapagal-Arroyo makes up for her lack of height by stretching out a hand to welcoming admirers on a seawall in Balite Beach, Pagadian City.

MAYOR TARGET

Graduation attack death toll: 5

COTABATO CITY—Two more victims in a graduation massacre in Kabuntalan, Maguindanao, Wednesday died while being treated in a hospital, bringing the death toll in the killings to five persons.

A mayoral candidate, who claimed she was the target of the suspects, said about 26 persons and children-graduates were hurt after the suspects opened fire as the principal was giving his opening speech at 1 p.m.

Bai Susan Samad, Kabuntalan mayoral aspirant under former President Joseph Estrada's party Partido ng Masang Pilipino, said the gunmen were allegedly led by Bastian Dagloc, son of incumbent Mayor Salipongan Dagloc.

Mayor Dagloc could not be reached for comment. He was reportedly in Davao City when the incident occurred.

"I know him very much. He even talked to me and my police escort but I did not expect he was after my head," Samad said.

She said her lone police escort, PO1 Sahid Sagcad, was killed first. When Sagcad fell, other suspects in ski masks started shooting indiscriminately.

"I saw the suspects' guns pointed at me, I survived because my supporters surrounded me, they covered me . . . that's why many of the wounded were my relatives," Samad said, adding that more than 20 graduating children were also wounded.

She said the suspects only left after one of her supporters yelled at the microphone and told the crowd that the mayoral candidate was dead.

"They (suspects) thought I was dead as I was lying face down, so they hurriedly left while still firing their guns," Samad said.

There are eight mayoral aspirants in Kabuntalan; a town located in Maguindanao's marshland, considered a traditional "hot spot" every election period.

Wednesday's incident was the second election related violence in Maguindanao since March 23 during which, Ludovico Boy Banaga of Barangay Kauran, Ampatuan, was shot dead by gunmen.

Banaga was the campaign leader of Maguindanao reelectionist Gov. Zacaria Candao and supporter of opposition senatorial candidate Ricardo "Dong" Puno. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

List-up fraud found

BY ALEX PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has already discovered more than 100 double registrants in Bais City, 45 kilometers north of this city.

Election officials are also examining the voters' lists to see if there are other double registrants in other parts of the province.

Provincial Election Supervisor Rogelio Benjamin showed reporters during a forum on Wednesday the partial list of double registrants, which contained the names of 135 voters who registered for voting in several barangays.

"This list accounts for only 40 percent of the double registrants in Bais. We expect to see about 300 flying voters in Bais City alone," he said.

The Comelec is revising a complete list of double registrants in Negros Oriental, pending the arrival of the backup computer diskettes of voters' lists in the towns and cities of the province.

Benjamin said the completion of the list was delayed because of the proposal to hold a new round of registration for new voters.

"It may be possible that some registrants had simply forgotten that they had previously registered as voters in another precinct," he said.

"But election offenders cannot claim good faith because the mere act of committing it is a crime in itself. We are obliged to file cases against these people," he added.

In 1998, the Comelec also discovered 215 names of people who had registered at least twice in different precincts in Negros Oriental, with one voter registering three times in various precincts and towns.

Puwersa confronts PPC on noisy campaign truck

BY GERRY PAGHARION
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—A blaring sound coming from a cargo truck used as a campaign vehicle brought two opposing political parties here to a confrontation.

The incident happened while the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa led by deposed President Joseph Estrada was holding its rally at the Roxas City plaza bandstand Wednesday afternoon.

Emcee Elmer Blasurca, chief of staff of Capiz congressman and candidate for governor Vicente Andaya, was about to introduce former first Lady Loi Ejercito, PnM senatorial candidate, when a huge truck with streamers and loaded with supporters of local administration candidates passed by at the foot of the Capiz Bridge, about 20 meters from the bandstand.

Blasurca was forced to pause for a while because the blaring sound had drowned out his voice and the crowd's attention was diverted to the passing vehicle.

Infuriated, Blasurca shouted over the microphone "bastos," referring to the supporters of the administration candidates.

Blasurca followed this with a loud "boo" and the crowd sympathetic to him followed.

"If you want to be respected, you must behave like respectable persons," Blasurca shouted at the people in the passing truck.

Opposition supporters threatened to stone the vehicle should it try to disturb the PnM rally.

Sensing that trouble was imminent, the campaign truck did not dare pass again.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

It's a contest of nicknames in North

BY FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Three years ago, when Bial Palaez, then the Benguet provincial development officer, was running for vice governor, he used "Ramon Mitra" as his election nickname.

Palaez had the same white *balbas sarado* (full beard and mustache) as the late statesman and he thought he could be better identified as "Mitra."

Now that he is running again as board member in the second district of Benguet, Palaez decided on a more sober nickname "Bill."

Other candidates in the Cordillera, however, thought of having a funny nickname to make for name recall during the elections.

Of course, when your real name is Warlord Alunday Soco, you don't need a nickname. Soco, is running for councilor in Lubuagan, Kalinga.

Running for vice mayor there is Corey Dickpus whose poster has his name and a machine gun. People travelling from Bontoc, Mt. Province, to Kalinga will tell you why.

Renato Agpay, who is running for councilor in Tuba, Benguet, is known for his hairstyle so he called himself "Flat Top."

In Alfonso Lista, Ifugao, Charles Catting is running for mayor. He is known as "Kalbo" for his lack of hair.

Charles Polig is running for councilor also in Alfonso Lista and he is also bald. So Polig chose instead the nickname "Pugak," after that famous bald comedian.

In Tuba, Benguet, Tita Bustig is hoping voters still remember Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet because her nickname is "Titanic."

Domingo Cabbigat has a brother who is also running for councilor in Lagawe, Ifugao. To distinguish himself, he turned on the radio and chose "Doming Mabalin Amin (Doming Everything Is Possible)" after that famous Ilocano radio soap hero.

James Inabiohan has a sister who is running for a council seat in Hungduan, Ifugao, so he took the nickname "007" after James Bond.

Rufino Bugatti, who is running for councilor in Hingyon also in Ifugao, does not necessarily have a pug nose as he is more popular there as "Big Nose."

In Aguinaldo town in Ifugao, Delfin "Moon" Bullan is running for mayor.

In the tourist town of Banaue, Ifugao, Delfin Tinapay is running for councilor. Remember him whenever you eat your *pan de sal*.

Abra town mayor refuses to sign election peace pact

BAGUIO CITY—Efforts to douse the most critical election hot spot in the Cordillera was put to naught after Mayor Cecilia Seares Luna of Lagayan, Abra, refused to sign a peace agreement offered by the Commission on Elections and the police.

Reports from the regional Comelec office here said Luna did not sign the agreement for the creation of Task Force Lagayan to enforce peace in her town during the elections because it implied that the recent killings there were "politically motivated" and involved her son.

The Philippine National Police noted four violent incidents in Lagayan that involved the town's politicians.

Luna said there are still no evidence that the killings were indeed politically motivated.

She also said her son, Jen-Jen, is only a suspect in at least one of these incidents and has not been found guilty. Comelec officials are not sure if Jen-Jen is the same Jendricks Luna, who is running for vice mayor in the town.

The mayoral candidates, however, agreed that they would keep the peace among themselves.

Task Force Lagayan would have been led by the police to ensure that the elections in the town would be peaceful.

Armando Velasco, Comelec regional director, earlier said that the agreement signing did not push through because Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, Cordillera police director, was not present.

It turned out that the agreement written by Velasco was not to Mayor Luna's liking.

Abra leads provinces in the Cordillera in the Comelec watch list of hot spots.

The town of Lagayan had always been a hot spot with the Luna, Layao and Lalugan families as perennial rivals.

Mayor Luna, who is running for reelection under the Liberal Party, would face Ruben Sagban Layao (Lakas-NUCD) and Louie Manwagui Layao (Independent).

The vice mayoral candidates are Luna's son Jendricks (LP), Joy Baro Luna (LP), Solomon Lalugan (Independent), Anita Seares (Independent) and Cipriano Lopez (Lakas).

During the 1998 elections, a candidate for municipal councilor was shot in Barangay Pang-od in Lagayan.

Councilor Leonardo Parado Sr. was also shot and wounded on Jan. 2, an attack that police believed was related to the shooting of a jeepney bound for Lagayan poblacion later in the day.

On Feb. 10, Barangay Kagawad Rogelio Sequera of Pang-od was gunned down. The only witness was beaten up, police said.

Ballot box snatching was reported in Barangay Bacag in Lacub town and Barangay Dalac West in Boliney town during the 1998 elections.

Supporters of a mayoral candidate were also shot and hurt in the capital town of Bangued on May 4, 1998. Another shooting occurred the following day during a rally in Barangay Tagodtod in Lagangilang town.

On May 4, 1998, the barangay captain of Barangay Salucag in Dolores town and two of his companions were ambushed. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Chavit booed, jeered at KBL rally in Ilocos

LAOAG CITY—Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson failed to get a hero's welcome from his *kalugaran* (provincemates) when he showed up for the grand proclamation rally of the Marcoses' Kilusang Bagong Lipunan here on Tuesday night.

Apparently, Singson's key role in the ouster of disgraced President Joseph Estrada, his erstwhile friend, did not sit well with some Ilocanos here who supported Estrada's presidential bid in 1998.

Ilocos Norte is one of four Ilocos provinces that delivered big votes to Estrada in the 1998 presidential race.

It was Singson's first visit to Ilocos Norte after the euphoria from the ouster of Estrada and the assumption of the Macapagal administration on Jan. 20.

The moment Singson stepped at the podium, he was met with heckling and jeers.

"Jueteng *pa rin* (Still jueteng)," several rowdy males chanted. A male spectator who was positioned right in front of the provincial capitol stage booed Singson while the governor was delivering his speech.

The man said in jest: "*Madi mo met lang imbaga ti rimuaren* (Why did you not announce the winning combination?)."

The heckler was apparently referring to the winning numbers in the jueteng game.

The crowd at the front row booed Singson when he thanked Ilocanos for their prayers during the impeachment trial where he was the prosecution's star witness.

The crowd, estimated at 5,000, went euphoric when former First Lady Imelda Marcos made her way into the stage halfway through the three-hour program.

Conspicuously absent during the Marcoses' political rally was Irene Marcos-Araneta, who is now the subject of inquiry by the Philippine, Swiss and German governments for her alleged attempt to move a reported P13.2 billion Swiss account to her account in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Singson, the Lakas-NUCD chair for the Ilocos, joined the Tuesday night rally as the KBL's guest of honor.

He also announced the coalition between the Lakas and KBL. Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his sister Rep. Imee Marcos, the KBL's leading candidates, are both seeking reelection.

Eric Fariñas, the younger brother of Ilocos Norte Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas, withdrew from the gubernatorial race on Monday leaving Governor Marcos unopposed.

Representative Fariñas (Nationalist People's Coalition), who filed his candidacy for a second term also on Monday, will be running against former Rep. Roque Ablan Jr., (Lakas-NUCD) a long-time Marcos ally.

"As regional chairman of Lakas, I have been authorized to proclaim the Lakas candidates. We agreed that the KBL candidates are also the candidates of the administration," Singson said.

Singson also endorsed Ablan as Lakas candidate for the congressional race.

"I hope Ablan's opponent (Fariñas) will not take it against me if I support (Ablan) because he (Fariñas) also supported my opponent," Singson said, referring to Representative Fariñas who was one of the congressmen who voted against the endorsement of the articles of impeachment against Estrada in the Senate.

Singson said he has retired from public life and would instead help "solidify" officials in Northern Luzon.

He said he could have run for senator but backed out as he was afraid of winning.

"*No mangabakak baka no maalisanak dagitay dadael ti ulo na diay Senado. Adu ti madi ti ulona diay Senado. Isu nga nasisiyaaten no tumulongak laengen ditoy amianan* (If I win, I might get afflicted by those mad people in the Senate. I would rather help the people in the North)," he said.

Singson also promised residents here that he would help Governor Marcos and Ilocos Norte get the support of the Macapagal administration.

"*Siak tu ti maysa nga katulongan ni Apo* Bongbong (Marcos) *nga agsakdo iti ado nga tulong ti baro nga administrasyon nga umay ditoy* Ilocos Norte (I will be one of those who will help Bongbong get support for Ilocos Norte from the new administration)," he said. ***Cristina Arzadon and Kira Espino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Ping admits admiring Corpuz, but not after 'frame-up' try

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson admitted he used to admire Army intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpuz, his former teacher at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

But Lacson told reporters here that he lost this admiration for Corpuz after Corpuz allowed himself to be used by the government to wage a "vicious and malicious campaign" against him.

"I used to look up to him for his ideology and principles. But not anymore because he is involved in partisan politics," said Lacson, former Philippine National Police chief.

He even called his former mentor a "disgrace to the uniform" and asked him to resign as head of the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isaf) and from the Army.

Corpuz and Lacson are products of the PMA. Corpuz, a Class 1967 graduate, used to teach social science subjects at the PMA, with Lacson among his students. Both had also been the subjects of film bios that starred actor Rudy Fernandez.

Corpuz gained prominence when he defected to the New People's Army and led a raid on the PMA armory in 1971, the year Lacson graduated from the academy.

Corpuz, captured in 1976, was among the longest-held political prisoners during Marcos' rule. He was freed in 1986 by President Corazon Aquino and was reinstated in the Army.

Lacson criticized Corpuz when Corpuz presented to media Senior Insp. Medel Poñe who corroborated the testimony of Mary Ong, former agent of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), who linked Lacson and his men to kidnap-for-ransom and the killings of suspected drug traffickers.

Poñe reportedly tagged Senior Supt. Francisco Villaroman as the head of the "clean-up crew" that was in charge of disposing of the bodies of persons kidnapped and killed by a ring allegedly led by Lacson.

Corpuz described Villaroman as "a close associate" of Lacson.

But Poñe later retracted his statement, saying that Corpuz forced him to link Lacson to the crimes. He said Corpuz and Ong met with him separately and both threatened to kill him if he refused to cooperate with them.

Corpuz denied Poñe's claim saying it was Poñe who approached him and executed an affidavit implicating Lacson.

Penalties for bets, vandals sought

KIDAPAWAN CITY—A city councilor here sought the speedy approval of an ordinance penalizing vandals, including politicians who post their campaign materials in trees using nails and staple wires.

Councilor Rodolfo Cabiles said the ordinance should be approved because trees, particularly the pines adorning the "center islands" along the main street here, are being destroyed.

Some politicians, he said, disregard the fact that nails and staple wires are hurting the trees, resulting in stress and possible wilting.

"This practice would eventually kill the trees. That's why this early, the ordinance should be approved," Cabiles said.

Reynaldo Pagal, chair of the council's committee on agriculture, said there should be a ban on the use of nails to install campaign posters on trees.

"The campaign period is yet to end in May, so if the practice of posting campaign paraphernalia in trees is not stopped, it would not be long before these trees would succumb (to stress)," Pagal, an agriculturist, warned.

Cabiles said the move to ban the use of nails and heavy-duty staple wires in fixing campaign posters in trees also gained the support of environmentalists and other sectors.

"It seems everybody, except some politicians, realize the importance of trees in our ecology," he said. ***Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Fugitive steps up bid for House seat

DIGOS CITY—Congressional candidate Pablo Villaber, who was arrested for an estafa conviction by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) last month, has taken advantage of his temporary liberty and waged an intensified political campaign.

Regional Trial Court Judge Hilario Mapayo was set to hand down his decision on the petition for *habeas corpus* filed by Villaber against the NBI early this week, but had to defer it following the filing of a manifestation by the law enforcement agency through provincial prosecutor Artemio Tajon.

Tajon is asking for the deposition of Justice Eloy Bello to support the NBI's case that the March 22 arrest order it served against Villaber was legal.

Villaber questioned the arrest order dated Jan. 20, 1994 saying it was no longer in effect at the time of his arrest because Justice Bello, then judge of RTC-15 Manila, already set it aside.

Villaber, whom the NBI said is also facing dozens of estafa charges in various courts in the country, even presented an alleged order dated Feb. 20, 1994 setting aside the arrest warrant.

The NBI refused to honor the Feb. 20 order insisting that the records of the decision were nonexistent.

Villaber, through his lawyers, filed a petition for *habeas corpus* before Mapayo's sala and was granted temporary liberty on March 26, which was supposed to last until March 29, the date the hearing was set.

But on March 29, Mapayo again extended his order to place Villaber under the custody of his lawyers, pending the resolution of the case.

Mapayo said he gave two days to the lawyers of Villaber to submit their comment on Tajon's manifestation on the need to take Justice Bello's deposition. ***Allan Nawal and Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Comelec says bets, rebs have 'unholy alliance

By Romy Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Some candidates and rebels in Negros Oriental had entered into an "unholy alliance," according to the Commission on Elections.

Rogelio Benjamin, provincial Comelec supervisor, told the INQUIRER he received reliable information that some candidates paid "access fees" to the communist rebels so they would be allowed to campaign in rebel-controlled areas.

Benjamin did not mention the amount, but he said it was proportionate to the number of voters in the area.

But he said the politicians needed the rebels so they could be able to campaign in the province's hinterland villages.

At the same time, he added, the rebels also needed the money of these politicians.

Benjamin refused to identify the towns, where the candidates paid access fees. But a source told the INQUIRER that the fees were paid in the hinterlands of Sta. Catalina and Guihulngan towns.

Benjamin admitted that he was concerned that the rebels might be used in the elections as a result of their alliance with the politicians.

But so far, he added, the rebels have not shown support for any candidate.

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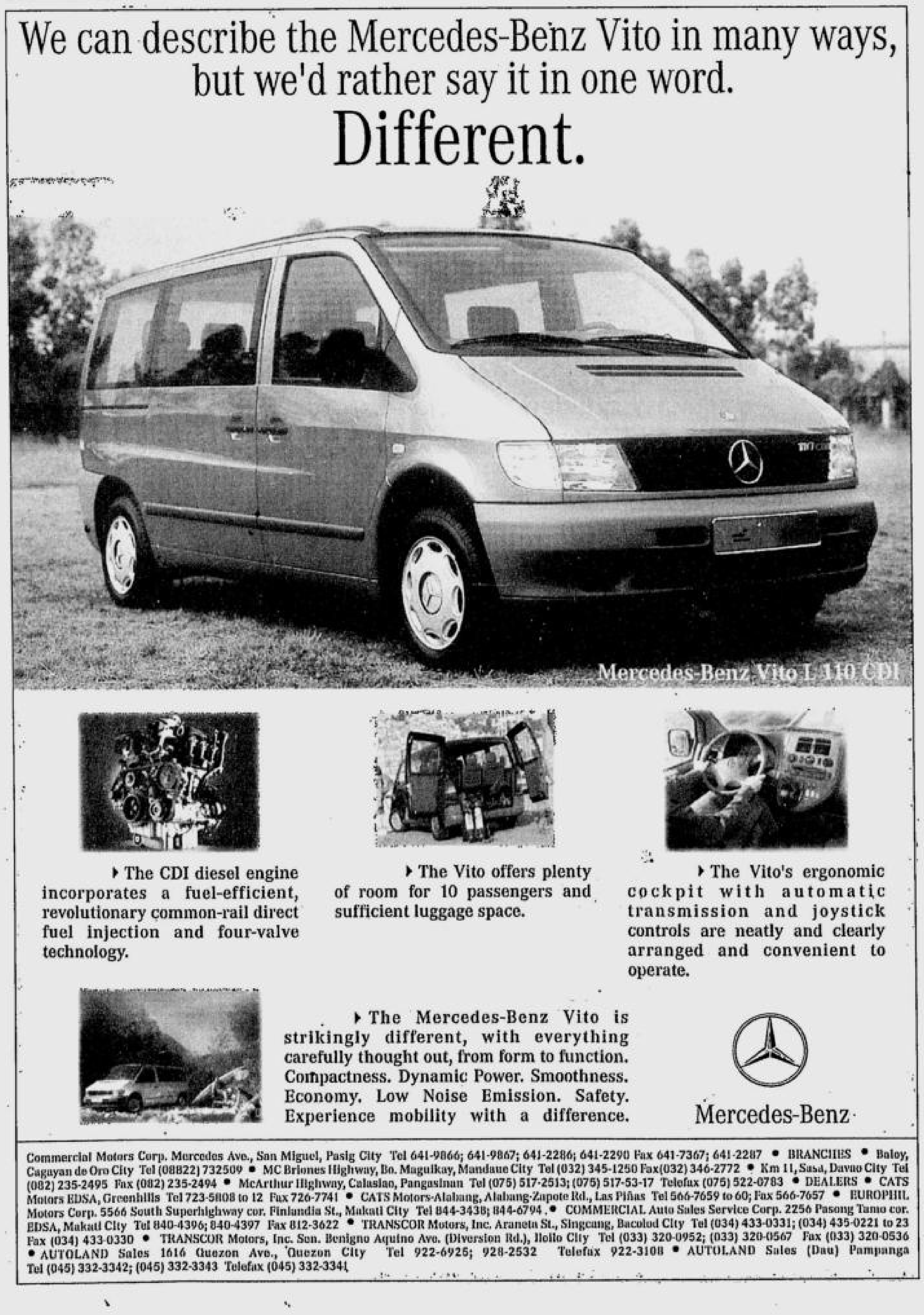
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Go ahead, arrest me, says Estrada

(From page A1)

headquarters. Estrada spoke before a lean crowd of about 2,000 at this city's plaza bandstand, which has a capacity of about 10,000 to 12,000. He was here to lead the senatorial candidates of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa (LDP-PnM) in their first political rally in Capiz.

He maintained his innocence of the charges and reiterated that he did not steal a centavo from the government during his two-year term as president.

If he did steal, he added, "I would not have the courage to face you."

Estrada's wife Luisa Ejercito, now running for senator under the LDP-PnM, told the crowd later that he would fight "even if he is jailed."

She said she and her fellow opposition candidates had been given a "warm reception" wherever they went.

"People cry, they hug us. The (administration's People Power Coalition) candidates are being pelted with tomatoes," she said.

In an Agence France Presse report, PnM spokesperson Crispin Remulla accused the Macapagal administration of pressuring the Sandiganbayan to issue an arrest warrant for Estrada by next week.

Remulla said he believed Estrada could be arrested on Good Friday, April 13, a non-working holiday when many Filipinos travel out of town for the Easter holidays.

He said this would prevent them from reacting quickly to Estrada's arrest.

However, Interior Secretary Jose Lina minimized the threat of unrest, saying "assuming they issue an arrest warrant, I think there will be no disorder."

Fair but relentless

Quevedo said he had always expected that criminal charges would be filed against Estrada after the impeachment trial.

He said the legal proceedings against Estrada should be conducted "in a fair and just manner," but they must be pursued "relentlessly."

"From the point of view of a lay person, (Estrada's arrest) is the next step to bring the charges filed against him during the impeachment trial nearer to its logical conclusion," the Cotabato archbishop said.

But Quevedo, who rallied the CBCP in calling for Estrada's resignation toward the end of last year, called on the government to consider the implications of having a former president arrested and placed behind bars.

"It would depend on the reaction of the people," Quevedo said. "If the result (of Estrada's arrest) is public riots, then it should be stopped . . . The way he should be arrested should be (studied)."

Quevedo said that if hundreds of people would get in the way of Estrada's arrest, the government must put it off. "But if only 50 or so people would block it, the arrest should be done if the court says so," he said.

Members of militant groups had called for Estrada's arrest following the Supreme Court's ruling Tuesday upholding Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency and throwing out his claim to immunity.

But Luisa Ejercito warned of violence if and when Estrada was arrested.

Her fellow candidate, reelectionist Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago—a staunch Estrada supporter and among the 11 senator-judges who voted to suppress potentially damaging evidence at the impeachment trial—even warned of civil war.

Frustrated

"I don't know how to thank you. I'm facing you with my head high because I took care of the trust and confidence that you have given me," Estrada told his audience in Roxas City.

He also said he was frustrated by the tribunal's ruling and his being denied due process.

Estrada said judges and justices, as well as the Ombudsman, were being put under duress. But he did not say by whom.

He insisted that he was still the country's duly elected president, saying he was only convicted in the streets by some 400,000 people, mostly the rich, when about 10 million people elected him to office.

He accused the Makati Business Club and the "rich" on Ayala Avenue of financing the anti-Estrada rallies that led to his ouster.

Estrada said that when he assumed the presidency in 1998, the country's treasury was "bankrupt." Yet, he said, he was able to fulfill his promise to the poor of food on the table and a roof over their head.

He said he drew the ire of the rich because when "I saw the loans of the rich in the banks, I issued a memorandum stopping the giving of these loans."

"This was the reason why most of our banks went bankrupt," he said.

Estrada said he had also turned down the request of the Metro Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System to raise its water rates.

He again assailed Ilocos Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson for the "jueteng" exposé that eventually led to his ouster.

He said Singson had been angered by his plan to legalize jueteng so the government would earn P5 billion yearly.

"If I earned money from jueteng, why did I push for its legalization?" he said in Filipino.

Estrada also denied that he and LDP-PnM candidate Panfilo Lacson were behind the abduction and supposed murder of PR man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and driver Manuel Corbito.

He urged the people "not to believe in these lies" and because all kinds of "black propaganda" were allegedly being thrown at him.

By the book

If and when, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) will mobilize at least 250 personnel to guard, transport and check on the health of inmate Estrada.

The BJMP formed Task Force Panatag yesterday to make sure that Estrada's detention would be tight, conducted by the book, and not disruptive to the public.

It will be led by Senior Supt. Vicente Encarnacion, the BJMP's assistant regional director for the National Capital Region.

For starters, Chief Supt. Arturo Alit, BJMP officer in charge, said that should the Sandiganbayan order Estrada's arrest, the bureau would recommend that he not be detained at the "congested" Quezon City Jail, as earlier reported.

Alit cited alternative sites like the Metro Manila Rehabilitation Center in Bicutan, Taguig, and the detention centers in Camps Crame and Aquinaldo, also in Quezon City.

"Because his is a high-profile case, it will be difficult if we keep him at the Quezon City Jail, which is along Edsa's southbound lane in the Kamuning area. We are thinking of a scenario wherein his supporters would frequently hold mass actions there, and this will definitely affect the flow of traffic," Alit told the INQUIRER.

Also, he said, the Quezon City Jail did not have enough space for media interviews or for Estrada's private conferences with lawyers.

"Just think of the security problems these would pose," he said.

Like almost all Metro Manila jails, the Quezon City Jail is overcrowded. It was built to hold only up to 700 inmates, but it currently has about 2,000, Alit said.

He also clarified that it would be the Philippine National Police that would carry out Estrada's actual arrest, if ever. ***With reports from Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau; Volt Contreras in Manila; AFP***

Erap asks high court to reverse decision

(From page A1)

Reuters, said: "It's a very, very long shot."

Government prosecutors at Estrada's Sandiganbayan trial may be in for an early setback because of their supposed failure to follow procedure in filing plunder and graft charges against him, members of his family and his cronies.

Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena yesterday hinted that once the cases were raffled off, the anti-graft court's five divisions might "send back" the complaints to the Office of the Ombudsman because that agency had denied Estrada and the other respondents the required time to respond to the charges prior to their filing on Wednesday.

"Under the charter of the Office of the Ombudsman the respondent has up to five days in which to file a motion for reconsideration of any ruling that authorizes the filing of information against him," Garchitorena told reporters.

On the same day a special panel formed by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto approved the filing of 11 complaints—seven implicating Estrada—he proceeded to forward the cases to the Sandigan.

Desierto yesterday said his office was not legally bound to observe the five-day period, which he described as "directory in nature and not mandatory."

He issued the clarification in response to the accusation made by Estrada's lawyers and other parties that he should have waited for the expiration of the five-day period before filing the cases in court.

"The Ombudsman is not required to wait after five days. The respondents must file within five days their motions for reconsideration if they opt to do so. The five-day requirement is for the respondents, and not for the Office of the Ombudsman, to follow," he said.

2 attempts

In a 26-page motion, Saguisag said Ms Macapagal herself realized that Estrada had not yet resigned "well after Jan. 20, 2001."

He alleged that Ms Macapagal "twice personally and directly acknowledged to a duly authorized representative of (Estrada) that she had indeed authorized Secretary Perez to talk about the need for (Estrada) to resign and leave the country."

Saguisag said Estrada had rejected the two attempts to persuade him to leave.

"This can be proven in a hearing," Saguisag said. He did not give details.

In the motion, Saguisag also admitted that Section 2 of Rule 52 of the rules of court bars "the same party," in this case Estrada and his lawyers, from filing a second motion for reconsideration of a judgment or final resolution.

But Saguisag said he was gravely concerned about the tribunal's use of former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara's personal account of Estrada's final days in Malacañang as its basis in claiming he had resigned.

That the tribunal heavily relied on Angara's diary "lays down not just bad law, but dangerous law," Saguisag said.

Saguisag had already protested the high court's use of the diary—which was published in the INQUIRER in three parts—in its first 13-0 decision on March 2.

He said the use of the diary violated five basic rules of evidence, including those on authentication of private writings, on best evidence, on hearsay, on judicial notice and on the *res inter alios acta* doctrine.

Saguisag added that as early as Feb. 20, 2001, he already pointed out that courts could not rely on news accounts, even citing the case of a regional trial court judge who was dismissed for relying on news accounts in deciding a case.

He pointed out that neither Estrada's lawyers nor the tribunal were furnished a copy of the diary, and that the tribunal quoted from the INQUIRER account.

Saguisag also said Angara himself had disclaimed the high court's interpretation of his account of his "observations and impressions of the events in Malacañang Palace on Jan. 19 to 20, 2001."

"While admitting that (Angara) did have a written account of the events, he categorically said that the petitioner did not resign," Saguisag said.

Quoting Angara, Saguisag added that Estrada did not resign "because the conditions set for his resignation did not take place nor were complied with, strengthened by the personal account of another participant, then Presidential Management Staff Assistant Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla."

Subjective intent

Saguisag also asked whether the tribunal had "correctly relied on such (INQUIRER) account rather than on the first-hand account of the person quoted."

He said this was "most crucial and decisive especially considering the statement of (the tribunal) that 'it is not unusual for courts to distill a person's subjective intent from the evidence before them.' (But) in ousting a President with a mandate?"

"Considering this statement of (Angara), it would be grossly inappropriate and unfair to hold that he made the admission, as an agent of petitioner, that the latter had resigned the presidency," Saguisag said, adding:

"To do so would be to deliberately ignore the . . . categorical statement of (Angara) himself. How can this (tribunal) insist on its interpretation of (Angara's) 'diary' and refuse to give credence to his categorical statement?"

Saguisag argued that while Angara served as Estrada's alter ego at the time, "such representation cannot be interpreted as conferring on (him) the authority to resign the presidency for (Estrada)."

"(Angara) never claimed that he was authorized to relinquish the presidency (and) the popular mandate that stood behind it. Certainly, even if (Angara were) acting for petitioner in the negotiations with the party of (now Executive Secretary) Renato de Villa, the undeniable fact is that the negotiation failed, for which reason the resignation letter prepared by (Angara) was not signed, much less, released," Saguisag said.

Similar situations

Garchitorena said similar situations involving the five-day period had arisen "many times" concerning other graft cases filed by the Ombudsman.

"When you are a respondent you are given notice that a resolution has been rendered and that you may now file a motion for reconsideration, or else expect an order of arrest from the court," he said, adding:

"Many times it has happened and many times we have authorized the accused to file a motion for reconsideration, provided he has seasonably come to us and asked for permission.

"So under those circumstances, we send the case back and authorize . . . no, not authorize but require . . . the Office of the Ombudsman to look at the case again."

Garchitorena clarified that he was merely citing previous cases and not undermining the prospects of the Estrada cases.

"Until the matter is raised before the proper division, we will find out how that five-day period (issue) will be responded to by the court," he said.

In an interview earlier in the day, Raymund Fortun, among the first to surface as part of Estrada's legal team in the Sandigan cases, said this procedural lapse on the Ombudsman's part was exactly what the defense might question immediately.

"Why did they file the cases right away without even furnishing copies of the complaint to the respondents? This is not just about courtesy; this is procedural," Fortun told the INQUIRER.

At press time, Fortun and Estrada's other lawyers were scheduled to meet for the first time and plot their moves at the ex-president's residence on Polk Street in San Juan.

"Respondents are supposed to be given time to take remedial action, like filing a motion for reconsideration, for clarification or reinvestigation," Fortun said.

He also questioned the "haste" with which the Ombudsman filed the Estrada cases, considering that earlier complaints involving other government VIPs had long been pending.

"With the speed by which these things moved, there appears to be something wrong," said Fortun, who also defended Estrada at his impeachment trial.

The lawyer wondered aloud why the case against former Speaker Manuel Villar in connection with the power sector reform bill "payola scandal," for example, had apparently remained idle at the Office of the Ombudsman.

"*Namimili yata* (The Ombudsman seems to have become selective)," he said.

Standard procedure

Desierto said it had been the policy of the Office of the Ombudsman since its creation to file cases on the same day that these were resolved.

"This standard procedure has been followed in all 58,000 cases that were resolved all these years," he said, adding that the practice actually started from the time the office was established in 1988.

"Immediately after the resolution is issued, the information is filed in court," Desierto said. "The Office of the Ombudsman has prescribed this rule, which is authorized under Section 27 of Republic Act 6770—the Ombudsman enabling law."

Under the office's Administration Order No. 15, the five-day period does not bar the Ombudsman from immediately filing the information in court.

"This is so because the respondent does not automatically file a motion for reconsideration, especially if the case has been exhaustively investigated by the Office of the Ombudsman. So it is pointless to wait for the five-day period to expire," Desierto said.

He said Estrada's lawyers and the other respondents would be furnished copies of the joint resolution "any time after (it) is filed."

Thus, he can file the cases even without first furnishing the respondents copies of the resolution and the charge sheets, he added.

Desierto also asked Justice Secretary Perez to lift the hold-departure order on 10 people who were cleared of graft and other charges earlier lodged against them with the Ombudsman.

The 10 are Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson, Senators John Osmeña and Teresa Aquino-Oreta, former Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Estrada brother-in-law Raul de Guzman, UP Professors Danilo Reyes and Mila Reforma, and Ilocos Sur provincial government officials Erlita Aroe, Maricar Paz and Marina Atendido.

Still covered by a hold-departure order are Estrada, former first lady Luisa Ejercito, their son Jinggoy Estrada, Charlie "Atong" Ang, Edward Serapio, Yolanda Ricaforte, Alma Alfaro, Eleuterio Tan and Jaime Policarpio, among others.

Plane briefly held in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Authorities at the Davao International Airport (DIA) briefly held on Wednesday a Super King Air plane earlier identified by the government as among the 32 planes that Joseph Estrada would have supposedly used in an alleged escape plan.

Tranquilino Oljol, chief of the Flight Service Station of the Air Transportation Office here, said his staff and aviation security personnel held the plane after learning that it left the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila without a thorough check by airport security.

Oljol said the plane, registered as RPC-1728 and owned by the Ayala Corp., took off from the Naia around 6 a.m. Wednesday en route to Davao with two pilots on board.

Shortly before 10:30 a.m., the pilots filed a flight plan to Mactan indicating that there would be six passengers, prompting aviation security to check for the possible presence of the expresident.

Oljol said the 15-minute search yielded negative results, and the plane was allowed to take off as scheduled.

"We are not taking any chances," he said.

The Bureau of Immigration yesterday deployed more agents to private and public air strips in Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Bukidnon and South Cotabato.

Immigration officer Benjamin Lao said they were coordinating with police and other law enforcers to keep a tight watch on an air strip owned by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, an ally of Estrada, in Malita, Davao del Sur.

Cojuangco used the Malita air strip when he slipped into the country in 1991 from his self-imposed exile in Australia.

Starting this month, Estrada can no longer charter Subic Air for his campaign sorties in the countryside.

Subic Air stopped renting its planes to Estrada in consideration of the security of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is also using its jets for her provincial trips, according to its VP for operations, retired Commo. Gil Fernandez.

Since his ouster on Jan. 20, Estrada had been chartering Subic Air's Learjet when going on trips to the provinces to campaign for the senatorial candidates of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa.

But he used a Falcon DA-10 owned by Far Horizon for his trips to Mactan on April 1 and to Roxas City on April 5. The plane used Subic Air's hangar at the old Manila Domestic Airport.

At the same time, Ms Macapagal also rented Subic Air's other Learjets for her trips to the countryside. For her security, she has been advised not to use the old Air Force presidential plane. ***Reports from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau; TJ Burgonio in Manila***

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		5J - 342	Daily	1510	1600
CEBU	KALIBO	5J - 232	T/F/Sun	1120	1200
KALIBO	CEBU	5J - 231	T/F/Sun	1250	1330
DAVAO	KALIBO	5J - 594/232*	T/F/Sun	0930	1200
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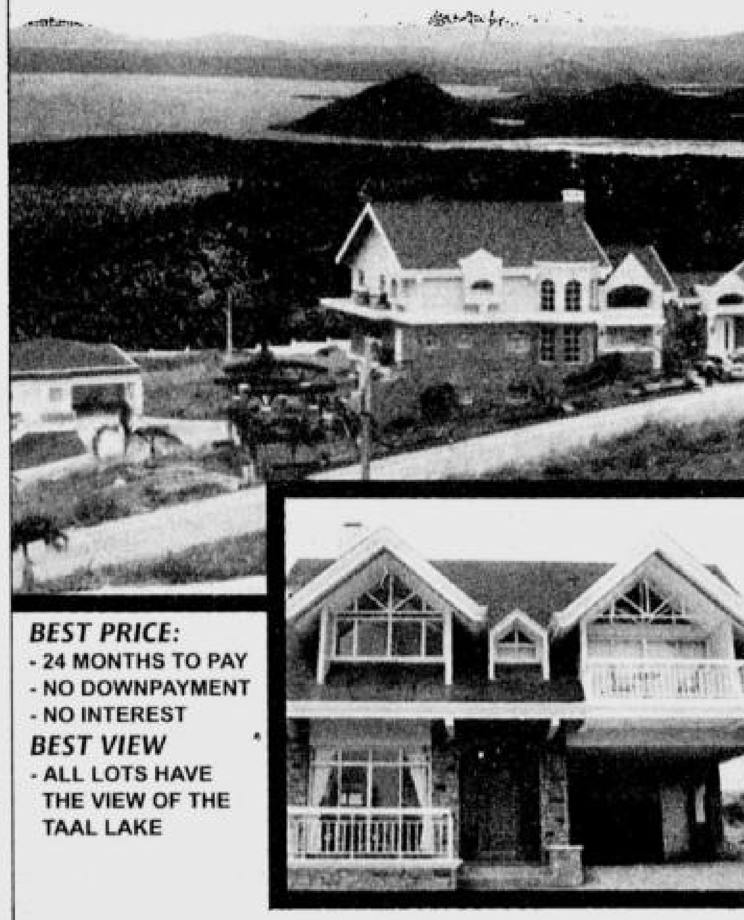

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The Mandate of GSIS Remains Unchanged:

We Secure the Best Insurance for All Government Assets, Marked by the Least Cost and the Greatest Protection.

We at the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) have recently taken one determined step to further strengthen our capability to get the best insurance and re insurance packages for all government property insured at 1.5 trillion pesos.

We are actually being faithful to our legal mandate to insure such government assets whose very magnitude and value make us realize the awesome responsibility on our corporate shoulders.

We have thus responded to such a mandate with the bold resolve to get only the best insurance for assets the Filipino people truly own.

We Acted Quickly.

We examined the underwriting requirements of all government property insurable under GSIS, and we were greatly concerned with the number of small-time reinsurance brokers whose lack of qualification and financial capability continually exposes our insured property to great risk. We at the GSIS therefore acted quickly to course all reinsurance requirements through the National Reinsurance Corporation (Nat'l Re).

Nat'l Re as an Interim Measure.

Placing reinsurance requirements with Nat'l Re is an interim mechanism, pending the finalization of a policy that will establish a number of accreditation criteria in the selection of reinsurance firms and brokers. Under this interim arrangement, all placements are coursed through Nat'l Re and its members to the extent of their respective net worth. Beyond the members' net worth, such placements are forwarded to the world's top three reinsurers for appropriate coverage.

The Nat'l Re is a creation of law and is made up of the 74 leading reinsurance agencies in the country, representing more than 70 percent of the 105 direct writing insurance firms.

Era of Transparency and High Standards.

Time was when reinsurance decisions were handled by reinsurance brokers who were selected on the basis of favoritism, force of habit, or various ways of persuasion. This will soon be a thing of the past. A new era of transparency and high standards will forthwith govern all our reinsurance requirements.

GSIS Cannot Be Distracted from Its Mandate.

The GSIS is in the business of getting the best insurance and reinsurance for all government property. We cannot be distracted from this mandate by certain quarters who want us to worry about the economic future of small-time reinsurance brokers. In the real world of free market forces, as a first essential step, all brokers must show that they are qualified. Those who cannot compete fair and square belong to another world - but surely not the world of business in general and reinsurance in particular.

Good News to the Qualified, Bad News to the Unqualified.

Brokers who are financially sound and have a sterling track record in putting together a superior risk management package surely welcome this move. This is not so, understandably, for small-time brokers lacking the required financial backbone and good track record. Instead of taking the positive step to qualify themselves, they have chosen to question the new policy that is clearly for the greater good of our country and people.

The Big Picture: GSIS Has Only 10% of Reinsurance Business.

In 1999, the country's reinsurance volume amounted to 12.28 billion pesos. That same year, GSIS ceded 1.4 billion pesos in reinsurance, a little over 10 percent of the entire volume, leaving 10.87 billion pesos to the private sector. What does this mean? GSIS's volume, when coursed through Nat'l Re, could not possibly be the cause of the bankruptcy of the entire reinsurance brokerage industry.

Our Commitment and Resolve:

In our innovative effort to make the GSIS more responsive to the needs of its members;
in our unbreakable resolve to get the best insurance protection for all government property;
in our faithful stewardship of a P181 billion corporation wholly devoted to serve our country and people...

WE ARE PLACING OUR LOYALTY TO THE HIGHER TRUTH — THAT IF WE SERVE OUR MEMBERS WELL, WE ARE SIMILARLY SERVING OUR COUNTRY AND PEOPLE WELL.
WE THEREFORE ASK ALL SECTORS TO JOIN US IN UPHOLDING THIS TRUTH.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

65TH MASTERS ON TODAY

Woods starts 'Slam' bid

AUGUSTA, Georgia—One bad swing. One gust out of Amen Corner.

Just like that, Tiger Woods' chance of winning the Grand Slam began to slip away. He surrendered five shots to par in two holes, signed for 75 in the first round and never caught up in the Masters.

That was last year.

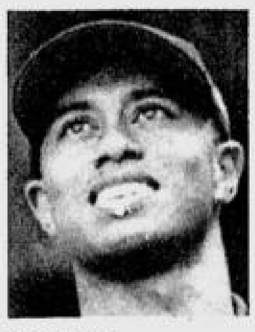
It was a time when Woods was so dominant that he had won or finished second in 10 of 11 PGA Tour events when he arrived at Augusta National. And it was a time when everyone, including Woods, assumed the Grand Slam meant winning all four major championships in the same year, starting with the Masters.

The circumstances will be similar when the 65th Masters begins Thursday (Friday in Manila).

Woods is the overwhelming favorite, especially after winning his last two tournaments at Bay Hill and The Players Championship.

A Grand Slam is at stake, even if the definition is subject to debate.

Woods is the reigning champion in the U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship, and now has a chance to become the first player in history to hold the trophies of all four professional majors at the same time.


WOODS

"If Tiger Woods wins this tournament, it will be the greatest achievement in modern day golf," Augusta chairman Hootie Johnson proclaimed Wednesday on the final day of practice.

One other thing will never change.

No matter how talented Woods is, no matter how much control he has of his game or how much intimidation his name on a leaderboard is worth, his greatest challenge will come from the course.

Augusta National always has the final word.

The humps and bumps on the most severe greens in championship golf can turn a seemingly good shot into a disaster. The wind blows as it pleases. It requires nothing short of precision, from the opening tee shot to the uphill climb at the 18th.

"That's one of the reasons why we love to play, that challenge of it," Woods said. "You know what you need to do, and sometimes it's just tough doing it."

It all starts to unfold Thursday at a course that has been softened by two days of light rain. Sam Snead and Byron Nelson will hit their ceremonial tee shots at 1200 GMT to kick off one of the most anticipated tournaments ever.

"The bigger the tournament, the more excited all of us are about playing," Woods said.

The contenders are numerous.

Defending champion Vijay Singh has finished no worse than fourth in his last six tournaments and never has been so confident about the treacherous, contoured greens.

"I'm not going to lay down this week," said Singh, trying to join Jack Nicklaus and Nick Faldo as the only repeat Masters champions.

Phil Mickelson has won five times over the past two years, twice at Woods' expense. Davis Love III had a Tiger-like comeback to win at Pebble Beach, then played in the final group Sunday in his next three tournaments.

"When you get out there and get excited about the Masters, you seem to do everything a little bit better," Love said.

CAP CLASSIC

Zarate leads field by 1 shot

By Jong Arcano

ANTIPOLO—As the debuting young sensation and the rest of the tournament top guns all played true to form, Danny Zarate inched ahead of them with the only scorecard that didn't have a single bogey yesterday.

Zarate, an Asian tour campaigner starting to get impatient with his long winless spell, escaped the rigors of the hazard-laden course to shoot a five-under-par 66 and stay atop the star-studded leaderboard of the College Assurance Plan Forest Hills Golf Classic.

The 36-year-old Zarate, who never had any significant achievement since winning the 1998 President's Cup at Wack Wack, knocked in five birdies, three of them from tap-in distance, to set the official course record of the club hosting its first ever event for pros.

The conditions were not too hard enough, allowing 14 players to break par and all the probable winners here were accounted for.

Al Cruz broke into the party of the stars with a 67 to join Ruben Sasutil in second place. Cruz was just a stroke behind Zarate and ahead of the group of Rosales, who marked his debut in the new professional tour by turning in one of the four 68s.

Recent leg winner Tony Lascuña joined Rosales and his two victims in the recent Ericsson-Smart Zed Classic at Sherwood Hills-Cassius Casas and Robert Pactolerin at 68.

The impact of an eagle-birdie finish was strong enough to make the field feel the presence of Rosales, the Philippine Open champion.

The 24-year-old Rosales, who had had close brushes with victory in the Asian Tour in the past month, bucked the psychological distraction of possibly re-injuring the right wrist which forced him out of the recent Sherwood Hills stop.

"I was a little worried but I tried not to let it affect my game. I'm feeling okay and hopefully I can go on and finish the tournament," said Rosales.

Casas, meanwhile, questioned a decision by the National Golf Association of the Philippines to deny him one of the two slots for the Kirin Open leg of the Japanese Tour two weeks from now. The NGAP, which annually receives an invitational from event organizers to send the country's two leading professionals, nominated Gerald Rosales and Rodrigo Cuello this year.

Casas claims that he should have been sent rather than Cuello since he was ranked higher than his former stablemate at Mizuno.

Jake Ayson of the NGAP said that they reserve the right to name the players who they feel can quality as the "country's leading pros."

Tennis seeds prevail

A BATTLE for supremacy between defending champion Angelique Widjaja of Indonesia and Taipei's Su-Wei Hsieh loomed yesterday in the 12th Mitsubishi Lancer International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

This came into view as Widjaja and Hsieh, both top seeded bets in the girls division, hurdled their respective opponents in the round-of-16.

Ranked 21st in the world, the top seeded Widjaja displayed what was expected of her, trouncing Adriana Szili of Australia, 6-1, 6-1 in their quarterfinals encounter.

The second-seeded Hsieh, on the other hand, dealt Thailand's Pichaya Laosirichon a 6-1, 6-2 whipping to arrange a semifinals duel against India's Sanja Mirza.

June Navarro

SPORTSWATCH

Bitoon wrests Nat'l Open top spot

IM Candidate Richard Bitoon outplayed NM Darwin Laylo to wrest the solo lead in the finals of the National Open Chess championship at the Ramon Magsaysay Hall of the SSS building in Quezon City. The unassuming 24-year-old Seaman Second Class was poised to take a two-pawn advantage when Laylo resigned in 58 moves of an English Opening, fortifying his grip of top spot with four points. Erstwhile co-leader Grandmaster Eugene Torre slipped into a tie for second with two others after settling for a friendly draw with fellow GM Bong Villamayor in 24 moves of a Sicilian Defense in Round 4 of this event backed by Wella-Balsam. "Both of us I think were a bit drained from our previous matches," said Torre, who had three points, the same tally as GM Joey Antonio and International Master Chito Garma.

QC, Las Piñas host chess clinics

MILO Checkmate clinics will be held simultaneously in Las Piñas and Diliman, Quezon City on April 9-15 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The clinic in Las Piñas will be held at the Golden Gems Learning Center in Gatchalian Subd. Ph. 5, Sucat (Evacom) while in Diliman, the chess classes will take place at the Civil Service Commission in Batasan Pambansa Complex. Enrollment is accepted at the venue site of your choice during the opening day or call the organizing Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560 for other details. Special clinics are also set to be held in Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Vito Cruz, Manila and Greenhills Center in San Juan on April 14-24; Nestle Phils. Alabang, Muntinlupa City and Angels in Heaven School, Cabuyao, Laguna on April 16-25; St. Jude Academy in Valenzuela City and St. Mary Montessori in Banga, Meycauayan on April 18-26.

Ejap holds golf meet tomorrow

THE ECONOMIC Journalists Association of the Philippines (EJAP) will hold its first ever sports festival tomorrow (April 7) at the United Laboratories Inc. main compound in Mandaluyong City. More than 60 business journalists from various media organizations are joining the event which will also feature fun games such as tug-of-war and sack race, relay and obstacle races as well as traditional sports like basketball, volleyball and swimming. "We hope this sportsfest will promote camaraderie among our members and instill in them the value of sports," EJAP president Cris Lerano said. Called EJAP Olympics 2001, the event was organized in cooperation with Unilab, Ericsson and Nestle Philippines, Inc.

PSC allots ₱30M for SEA Games

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission has allotted P30 million to bankroll the country's participation in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games.

PSC chair Carlos Tuason said the amount would be enough to satisfy the needs of an estimated 310 athletes who will don the national colors in September.

"Originally, the Philippine Olympic Committee pegged the cost of the actual games to only P23 million. But thinking that the number of participants could increase, the PSC added another P7 million to accommodate everybody," said Tuason.

Should the expenses fail to reach P30 million, he said the POC can do away with the excess budget on its own.

June Navarro

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

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Race 2—1. Kitana 2. Field Master 3. TumatagInting 4. Top Quest
Race 3—1. Galvalume 2. Septembermorn 3. Danielle's Angel 4. Soldier Blue 5. D Optician
Race 4—1. Vibrant Amazon 2. Daseldurf 3. Typhoon Belle 4. Queen Storm 5. Emancipated Belle
Race 5—1. Reign of Glory 2. Rajse A Fire 3. Bold Freddy 4. The Topnotcher 5. Strnog Bird
Race 6—1. Darth Vader 2. Queen Jamie 3. Winning Rose
Race 7—1. Heavy Metal 2. Steel Wheel 3. Impeccable 4. Doctor's Advice 5. Privately Owned
Race 8—1. Don't Worry 2. Full Blast 3. Wag Ingay 4. Ocean Friend 5. Altron
Race 9—1. Filthy Rich 2. Angelovich 3. Dial Tone 4. Modulo Queen 5. Inside Treasure

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA Bellsouth Classic Highlights at 7 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
Inside the PGA Tour at 12 noon (r – 7 p.m.) on Star Sports
Augusta Masters 2001, Day One Highlights at 12:30 p.m. (r- tomorrow at 3 a.m.), Day One at 7:30 p.m. (r), Day Two Preview tomorrow at 3:30 a.m., Day Two tomorrow at 4 a.m. on Star Sports
BASKETBALL: NBA - Sacramento Kings vs Utah Jazz at 8 a.m. (r – 10:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
NBA Inside Stuff at 10 p.m. on Star Sports
BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

WANG (left) shows his Dallas jersey as coach Don Nelson looks on.
AP

Wang makes historic debut in NBA today

By Henry Liao

WANG Zhizhi, the NBA's first Chinese player, makes his historic debut today when he suits up for host Dallas Mavericks in a home encounter against the Atlanta Hawks at the Reunion Arena.

An officer in the Chinese military, the 7-foot-1 Wang signed a two-year contract with the Mavericks reportedly worth $800,000 Wednesday.

But how did Wang make it to the world's premier basketball league?

He needed the approval of his army-run team to join the NBA. He also had to apply for his US visa through China's Ministry of Defense.

Foreign players seeking an NBA job normally don't go through the arduous process. That's unless the US government refuses to issue a visa because a player's country does not enjoy diplomatic relations with the US or is considered a "hostile" state.

Such was the case of Michael Ri, a hulking 7-8 North Korean who was denied entry into the US when he unsuccessfully attempted to join the NBA a few years ago. Not even the assistance of Jack Donohue, Kareem Abdul-Jahbar's high school coach at Power Memorial in New York), who brought Ri to Canada in a last-ditch effort to move closer to America, was helpful.

Insofar as the NBA draft scheme is concerned, players outside of the US (or US colleges) who wish to join the NBA are required to apply under the early-entry rule if they are less than 22 years old. Their application must be received by the NBA, at least 45 days before a draft is actually held.

A foreign player over 22 can be drafted without any restrictions unless the US government objects.

Another Chinese phenom, 20-year-old, 7-5 Yao Ming, is projected to be the No. 1 overall selection in the NBA draft in June. He'll have to pass through the early-entry route if his local club, the Shanghai Sharks, who lost to Wang's Rockets in this year's CNBL finals, agrees to release him to the NBA.

China has a third Sydney Olympics veterans who could also see action in the NBA next campaign. Chinese authorities reportedly have already given the go-signal for 24-year-old Menk Batere, a bull-strong Beijing Ducks center who hails from Inner Mongolia, to join the Toronto Raptors for the 2001-02 season.

Having "Great Wall" Triple Towers Wang, Yao and Batere in the world's ultimate roundball forum would be proof indeed that China is joining the global elite.

China, the undisputed Asian power, has a long association with basketball, which was brought to the Mainland by American YMCA missionaries soon after the game was invented in the late 1890s. That makes China the second oldest basketball-playing country after the US.

It is said that China has a basketball-playing population of 210 million that's playing, coaching or involved in activities related to the sport.

With Wang Zhizhi in the NBA, basketball's popularity in China looms even bigger.

That he is the greatest basketball player ever produced by China is, however, subject to debate.

NBA results

Miami 86, Washington 84; Phoenix 103, Charlotte 94; Toronto 97, Cleveland 94; Philadelphia 90, Detroit 84; Orlando 108, Boston 101; Minnesota 83, Portland 79; Vancouver 86, LA Clippers 78; Milwaukee 108, Golden State 78.

Ana, Welcoat post contrasting wins

By Dennis U. Eroa

ANA Freezer maintained its poise in the face of Ateneo-Pioneer's all-out drive in the homestretch yesterday, scoring a 71-66 victory in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The victory did not only give the Freezer Kings a 2-1, win-loss card, but it also made sportsman-businessman Rudy Mendoza the first-ever team owner to coach his squad to victory on his first try at coaching.

"I salute the players for not losing their heart. I also would like to thank the media for helping the team and the PBL," said Mendoza, who informed the Commissioner's Office that he would coach Ana for the rest of the conference.

In the second game, defending champion Welcoat Paints snapped a two-game losing skein by beating Hapee Toothpaste, 76-64.

Flashing a new-found ferocity, the youthful Insurers, bannered by Enrico Villanueva, Andrew Cruz and Rainier Sison, engaged the Freezer Specialists to an exciting duel right from the tipoff.

Ritualo led the breakaway when he hit back-to-back triples as the Paintmasters sped to a 62-48 bulge in the third period.

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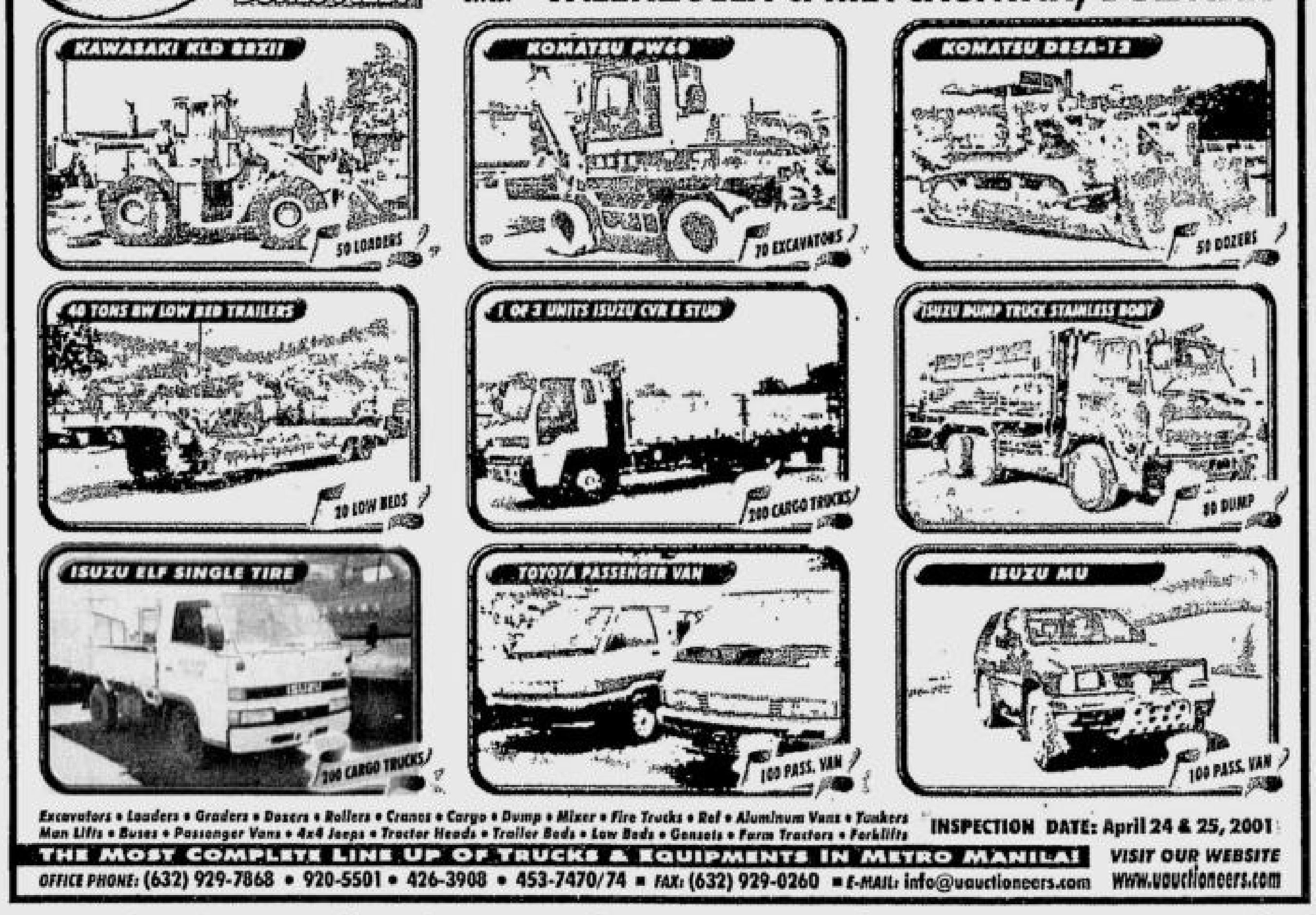

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Kournikova picked first in draft

CHICAGO —Anna Kournikova was the first player selected in the World Team Tennis marquee draft Wednesday, picked by the St. Louis Aces for the season that runs from July 9-29. The New York Hamptons, operated by Davis Cup captain Patrick McEnroe, chose Jan-Michael Gambill, and Philadelphia's expansion franchise picked Hall of Famer Jimmy Connors. The Hartford FoxForce protected rights to Monica Seles, while the New York Buzz protected Martina Navratilova and the Delaware Smash protected Serena Williams. The Kansas City Explorers, Springfield Lasers and Sacramento Capitals all passed on marquee selections. *AP*

US baseball results

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 7, Florida 3; Atlanta 3, N.Y. Mets 2; Pittsburgh 6, Cincinnati 5, 10 innings; Houston 8, Milwaukee 6, 12 innings; Colorado 13, St. Louis 9; Arizona 7, Los Angeles 2; San Francisco 8, San Diego 7. AMERICAN LEAGUE: Seattle 10, Oakland 2; Cleveland 8, Chicago White Sox 4; Boston 3, Baltimore 0; N.Y. Yankees 8, Kansas City 2; Toronto 11, Tampa Bay 8; Texas 7, Anaheim 3. *AP*

PBA ALL-FILIPINO CUP

Purefoods, Pop aim to complete Top 4

	W	L
Shell	9	4
SMB	8	5
Pop Cola	7	5
Purefoods	7	6
Red Bull	7	6
Ginebra	6	6
Alaska	6	7
Mobiline	6	7
Tanduay	5	8
Sta. Lucia	3	10

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
5:15 p.m. – Purefoods vs Shell
7:30 p.m. – Pop Cola vs Ginebra

PUREFOODS and Pop Cola aim to complete the Top Four cast of the quarterfinals and earn twice-to-beat incentives when they go against separate opponents today in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

With still three playing days left in the eliminations, the Hotdogs and the Panthers can simplify things with victories over Shell Velocity and Barangay Ginebra, respectively, in the double-header starting at 5:15 p.m.

Purefoods has a bigger chance of getting into the Final Four outright considering that it has won its last four games and that the Turbochargers, being the leaders, are already assured of the top two spots in the next round.

At 7-6 and with a healthy, intact lineup, the Hotdogs have become strong contenders again for the crown they last won in 1997.

However, Shell won't be taking everything sitting down since coach Perry Ronquillo stressed that he doesn't want to finish the elimination on a losing note.

"They show a lot of attitude these days especially during practice," said Purefoods coach Eric Altamirano. "Let's just say we want to prove something this conference."

RP dribblers tackle Indons

Games Today (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
1:30 p.m.—Thailand vs Singapore
3:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Indonesia

BY ROY LUARCA

AMONG the Philippine team members, Romel Adducul hates the Indons the most. It's been five years but he still remembers the way he was effectively taken out of the game by the Indons, who went on to clinch the 2nd South East Asia Basketball Association men's championship in Surabaya, Indonesia.

That time, he was slapped three fouls in a 30-second span and eventually fouled out. Adducul wanted revenge, but was denied the chance when Indonesia opted to skip the 1998 3rd Seaba meet won by the Philippines in Manila.

At 3:30 p.m. today, Adducul and the Philippines finally get the chance to get even with Indonesia when they tangle in the crossover semifinals of the 4th Seaba edition at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Indons, the Group B second placers, were forced to an early showdown with the Filipinos, the Group A topnotchers, following a 69-60 beating they absorbed from the Thais yesterday at the conclusion of the elimination round.

For sweeping Group B, Thailand will be facing a lighter opponent in Singapore, the Group A second placer, at 1:30 p.m. Singapore, which reached the semis for the first time in an international meet in 26 years, trounced Vietnam, 90-62, in the other game to finish at 2-1.

"We'll give it all today or else our three-game sweep in the eliminations would go for naught," said Zamar.

The tournament, which will determine the region's two representatives to the Asian Basketball Confederation championship, is sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Casino Filipino, Rain Forest Mineral Water, Absolute Distilled Water, Molten, Bestank, Baker's Far and Orchid Garden Suites.

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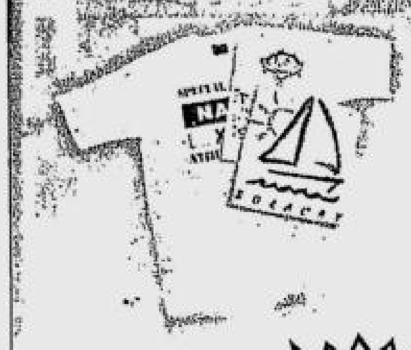
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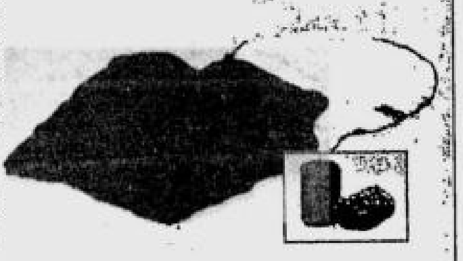
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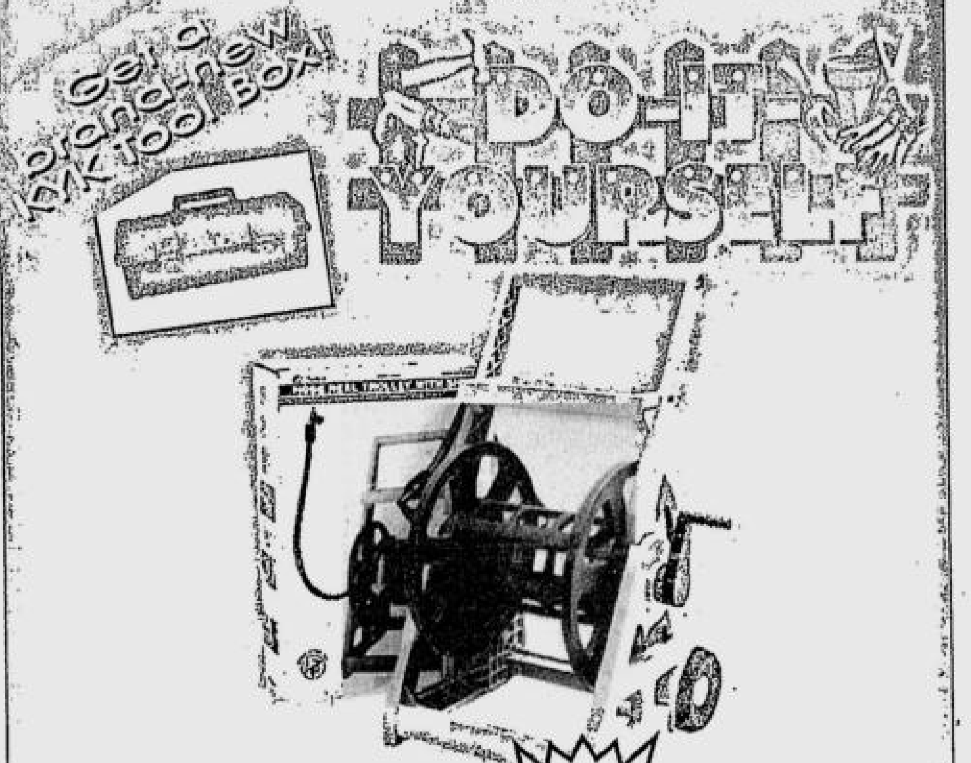
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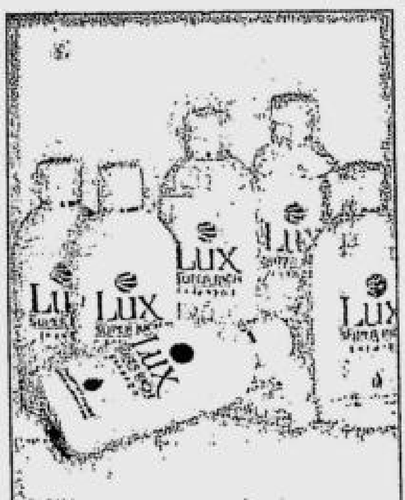
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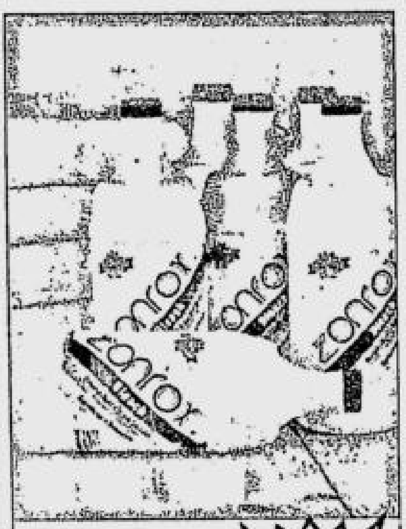
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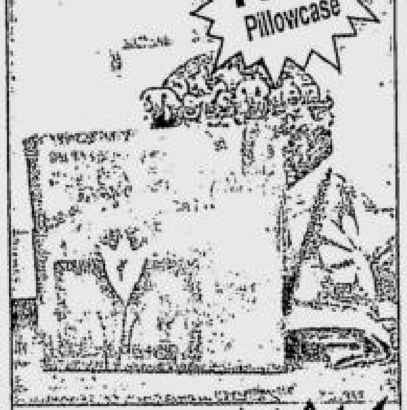
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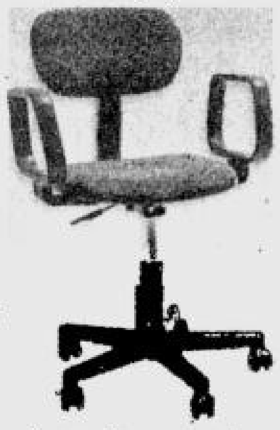
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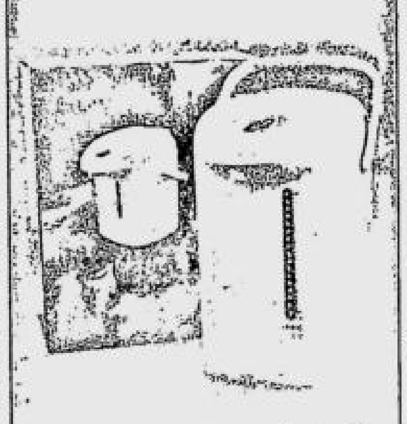
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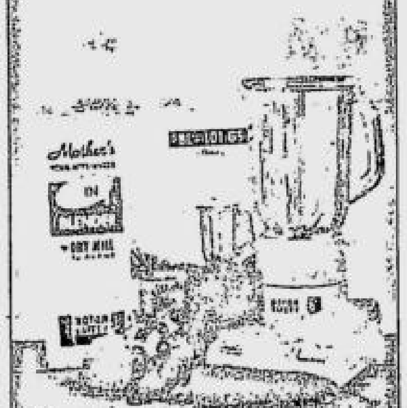
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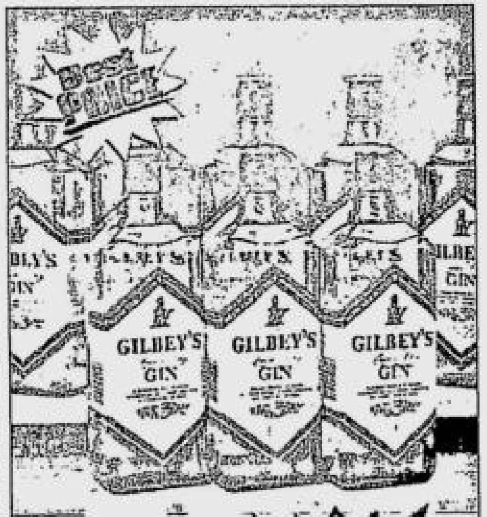
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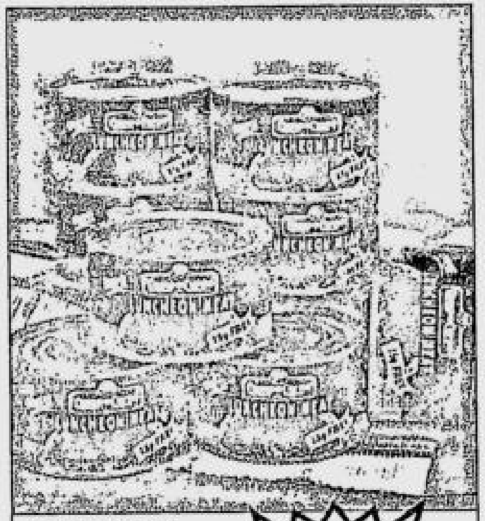
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

CEU student kills self after breaking up with girlfriend

By Jerome Aning

DRUNK and depressed, a 20-year-old Centro Escolar University student reportedly jumped to his death from a dormitory in Sampaloc, Manila before dawn yesterday, just minutes after his girlfriend broke up with him due to his excessive drinking.

Reynante Carpio, of Solis Street, Tondo, Manila, landed head first on the pavement and cracked his skull.

Investigators believed Carpio did not really intend to commit suicide but, because he was drunk, he might have lost control of his senses.

Carpio and a cousin, Jerome Yman, were having a drink in their room on the third floor of Gleco Building on Dos Castillas Street, Sampaloc, about 1:30 a.m. when Carpio's 16-year-old girlfriend arrived, said SPO1 Benito Cabatbat of the city police's homicide section.

Carpio's girlfriend reportedly got angry and scolded him for being drunk again, police said.

During her outburst, the girl allegedly said she was fed up with Carpio's drinking and that she was leaving him.

Yman later told police that the girl repeatedly tried to convince Carpio to stop drinking but Carpio refused to listen to her.

SPO1 Cabatbat said Carpio begged her forgiveness, promising never to drink again.

But the girl refused to reconcile, so Carpio allegedly sat on the railings of the terrace and threatened to jump, police said.

Yman and the girl told the police they thought Carpio was joking at first, but when he started to slip, they rushed to the terrace to save him.

The girl said she managed to grab hold of her boyfriend's shirt but it was torn from her hands as he continued to fall.

8 'kotong' cops arrested

By Dave M. Veridiano

"*KOTONG*" cops beware.

The Philippine National Police yesterday deployed to various areas in Metro Manila some of its intelligence agents to arrest mulcting traffic enforcers, resulting in the arrest of eight *kotong* policemen.

8 'KOTONG'/A24

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Dr. Karl-Heinz Rueckert is a world-renowned Swiss scientist and former president of a leading vitamin company in Switzerland. Now chairman of the board of Rueckert Pharmaceutical Company, he has received the degree of Honorary Doctor of Pharmacy from Chung-Ang University in Seoul, South Korea, and in 1990, established the International Medicinal Plant Research Institute in Breganzona/Lugano, Switzerland.

Our health needs rise as time passes. Because factors like pollution and stress affect everyone's health through the years, there is a need to regularly boost the body's defense against diseases. The ills of aging are brought by the proliferation of free radicals — unstable chemical fragments that damage the vital functions of cell structures — which increase with age and cause a tremendous drain on the immune system.

Aside from accelerating the aging process, free radicals contribute to the development of heart disease, hardening of the arteries, arthritis, cancer and allergies. What is frightening is that they can contaminate healthy molecules in the body if they remain unchecked. Yet, free radicals can be neutralized by antioxidants like Coenzyme Q10, which also assists in reversing the effects of aging, poor diet and decreasing health. However, as we age, our bodies do not produce as much of this nutrient as we need.

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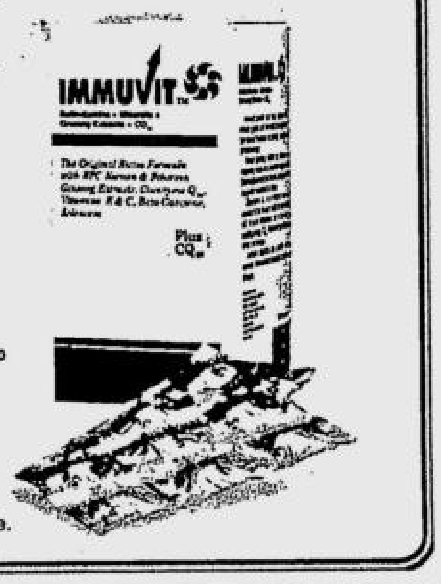

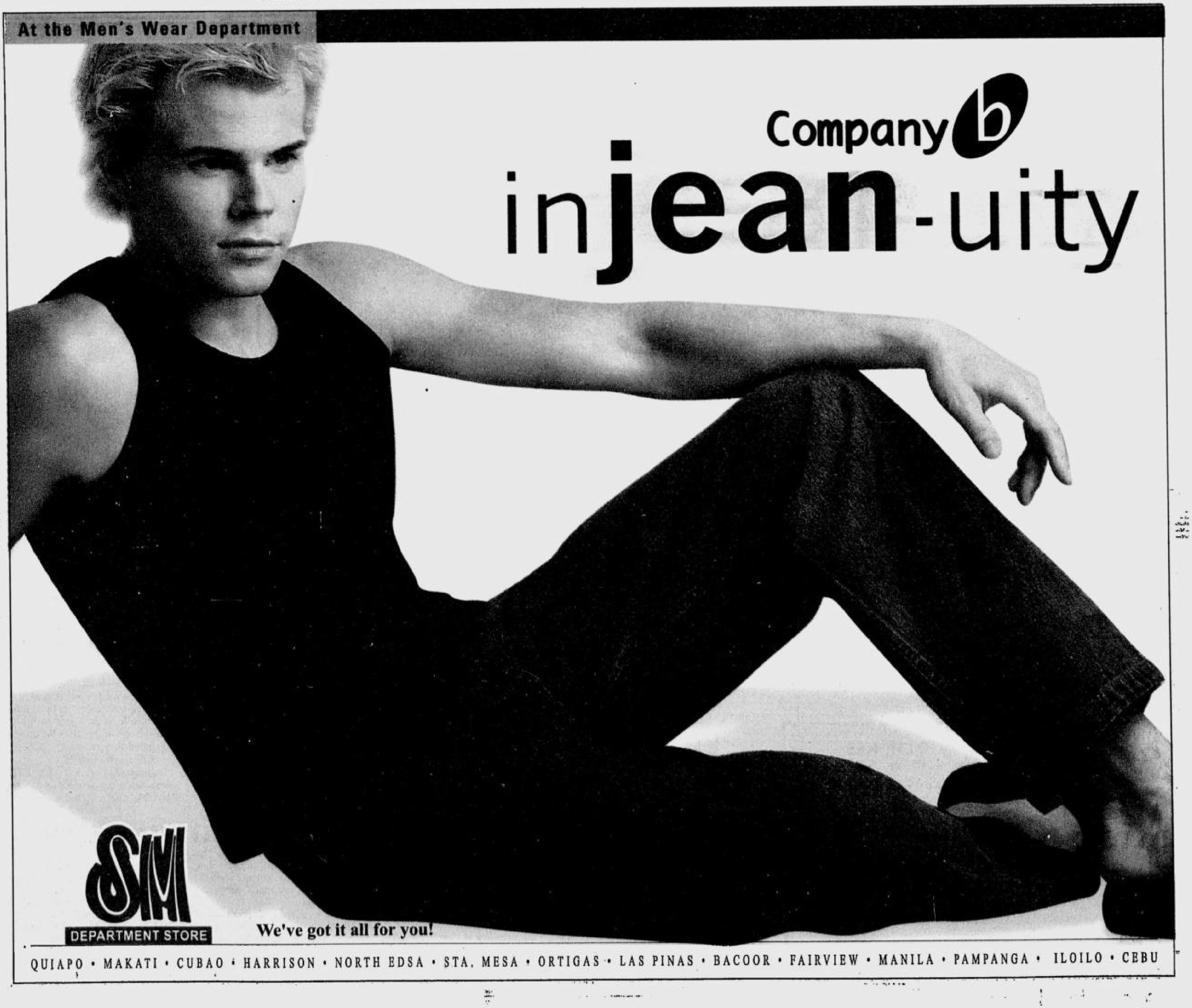
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HEWLETT-Packard (HP), the world's leading provider of digital imaging, printing and computing solutions, supported the recent launch of the partnership between two of the country's biggest media firms, Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA 7, which gave birth to the online news source inq7.net. inq7 president Dennis Valdez (left) demonstrates inq7's features to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, while GMA 7 chair, president and CEO Felipe Gozon and PDI chair Marixi Prieto look on. HP Philippines provided HP Pavilion and HP Vectra PCs for the launch.

League advocacy forum

THE LEAGUE of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) will hold an advocacy forum on "Policy Platform for Empowering Municipal Governance" on April 16 and 17, 2001, instead of its original schedule of April 5 and 6, at the Century Park Hotel, Manila.

All the 1,522 members of the league are expected to attend the day-long activity.

Issues such as internal revenue allocations, transfer of police power to local chief executives, agricultural modernization, transparency in fighting corruption in local government units, poverty alleviation, disaster management and information technology will be discussed by senatorial candidates.

The activity is meant to give the senatorial candidates a chance to present their policy commitments. It will also be the basis of the LMP'S policy advocacy agenda in the next three years.

Arellano High homecoming

THE GENERAL homecoming and general membership meeting of the Arellano (Manila North) High School Alumni Association will be held on April 22, 2001, Sunday, at 2 p.m. at the AHS Quadrangle on Teodora Alonzo Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Association president Rene E. Cristobal (Class 1951) and Gonzalo Trinidad (Class 1948), chair of the board of advisers, made the announcement.

The main honorees in the homecoming are Class 1941 (Diamond Jubilarians), Class 1951 (Golden Jubilarians), and Class 1976 (Silver Jubilarians.) Also to be honored are classes 1926, 1931, 1936, 1946, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

This year's Most Distinguished Alumnus awardee is Dr. Ricardo C. Galang of Class 1926. Now 93 years old and still strong, Galang was aide de camp of President Manuel Roxas. He was a bemedaled military officer. Also to be given awards are other outstanding alumni, student leaders and teachers.

AHS alumni are requested to contact any of the following for tickets or more information: Beth Cristobal, Class '51 (810-6360); Joe Evangelista, Class '53 (415-9523); Hermie Ramos, Class '41 (414-0074); Jun de Guzman, Class '57 (911-0416); Precy Relucio, Class '64 (253-2273); Rey Lanuza Class '68 (711-2328); Jun Carlos, Class '81 (719-1958).

People Power photo exhibit

VETERAN photojournalist Sonny Camarillo, under the auspices of the EDSA People Power Commission, will mount his 5th major photo exhibit on the 1986 Edsa Revolution from April 18 to 30 at the Ayala Mall at the Glorietta in Makati City.

The one-man photo exhibit will include images from the Edsa I and II.

Camarillo is past president of the Press Photographers of the Philippines and the centennial president of the Camera Club of the Philippines.

The show is sponsored by Ayala Center, Fujicolor and YKL Color Laboratory and the Philippine Tourism Authority. Other supporters are the Philippine Charity and Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Canon, the Social Security System and PhilHealth.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, April 6, 2001
5th Week of Lent

1st Reading: **Jer 20:10-13**
Gospel: **Jn 10:31-42**

The Jews picked up stones to throw at Jesus so he said, "I have openly done many good works among you, which the Father gave me to do. For which of these do you stone me?"

The Jews answered, "We are not stoning you for doing a good work but for insulting God; you are only a man and you make yourself God."

Then Jesus replied, "Is this not written in your Law: *I said: you are gods?* So those who received this word of God were called gods and the Scripture is always true. Then what should be said of the one anointed and sent into the world by the Father? Am I insulting God when I say: 'I am the Son of God'?

If I am not doing the works of my Father, do not believe me. But if I do them, even if you have no faith in me, believe because of the works I do, and know that the Father is in me and I in the Father."

Again they tried to arrest him, but Jesus escaped from their hands. He went away again to the other side of the Jordan, to the place where John had baptized, and there he stayed.

Many people came to him and said, "John showed no miraculous signs, but he spoke of this man and everything he said was true." And many became believers in that place.

Commentary

Often times Jesus slipped through the crowds to save himself from being lynched. He is clearly shown by the evangelist to be strong and consistent in his proclamation of the truth but he was not reckless in just letting himself be caught by his enemies. After all the argumentation and tension that blew up with an attempt on his life, the ending of today's Gospel is relaxing and encouraging: "Many came to believe in him." And the paradox is that he could elicit genuine faith in the periphery but not at the very center of power and religiosity in Jerusalem and the Temple. Often this also obtains in our present task of building up the Church of the Poor.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (PROPERTY)—Notice of sale to co-owners—Under Art. 484 of the Civil Code, there is co-ownership whenever the ownership of an undivided thing or right belongs to different persons. There is no co-ownership when the different portions owned by different people are already concretely determined and separately identifiable, even if not yet technically described. Co-owners with actual notice of the sale are not entitled to written notice. A written notice is a formal requisite to make certain that the co-owners have actual notice of the sale to enable them to exercise their right of redemption within the limited period of thirty days. But where the co-owners had actual notice of the sale at the time thereof and/or afterwards, a written notice of a fact already known to them, would be superfluous. The statute does not demand what is unnecessary. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Spouses Si v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 122047, October 12, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

VENDOR KILLS SIBLING
Not his brother's keeper

By Philip C. Tubeza

LIKE the biblical character Cain, vendor Jacinto S. Castillo, 28, is now on the run after he allegedly killed his older brother in Quezon City on Wednesday night.

Jacinto, of 7 Molave St. Area 4 Barangay Capri, Novaliches, Quezon City, is suspected of killing his older brother, carpenter Roger, 32, while they were drinking, according to investigator SPO1 Resty De Leon of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

Jacinto apparently did not appreciate Roger's advice for him not to allow his daughter to get hooked on illegal gambling, De Leon said.

The unsolicited advice appeared to have led Jacinto to stab to death his brother, De Leon said.

The policeman said the brothers were drinking liquor at home about 8 p.m. on Wednesday when Jacinto mentioned Roger's daughter.

Jacinto said he noticed that his niece had become deeply involved in illegal gambling in their neighborhood. He said Roger should stop his daughter's unlawful activities.

But Jacinto, who was already drunk, resented his brother's interference, police said.

An argument erupted between the brothers, until Jacinto took a knife and lunged at his brother.

Police said Roger was already drunk and was not able to parry his brother's thrusts. Jacinto fled as his brother fell, police said.

Roger's wife brought him to the Tordecillas General Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival at 8:40 p.m.

His body was later transferred to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy while police started a manhunt for the suspect.

Thank God, The Nuisance is on its way

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE HOTTEST news to come out of the PBA boardroom was not the threat of Tanduay Rhum to bolt the pro league. There's nothing truly unusual with one frustrated team owner blowing his top.

It is, as they say, all a question of upbringing.

The truly earthshaking basketball news hereabouts was the reported plan by Commissioner Jun Bernardino to allow the zone defense in the PBA.

It's a pity that most kids involved in countless summer cage leagues all over the country today are genuinely concerned with their uniforms. Not about how they would play.

They, first of all, want to be at their best—new shoes, fresh, glowing uniform—as though the game of basketball has itself become a cheap fashion show.

* * *

Yes, Philippine basketball has inexplicably been sissified by useless glamor and *garbo*.

Despite all this, though, most of these summer aspirants are grossly misinformed. They stroll onto the court with no hint what the tested and venerable zone defense is all about.

Reason: They grew up watching their local idols and thereby picked their shallow basics from the PBA which, as you well know, decided to ban the zone when the pro league was launched.

PBA geniuses, and these included the league founding fathers like the great Leo Prieto and the late Emerson Coseteng, strongly ruled that the zone was a very boring stamp of amateur play. It had no place in a professional league.

So they avoided the zone like the plague when the PBA broke ground in 1975.

That ban on the zone, indisputably the most solid defensive wall ever erected on the hard court, gave birth to illegal defense and all the assorted penalties that prevented the recurrence of the zone in the local pro league.

True enough, the ban bore fruit. It readily gave birth to saleable individual players who made their living mainly on fancy solo plays.

Isolation inevitably became the name of the game in the PBA.

Superstars continued to corner multimillion-peso contracts mainly on their stats, not on their exact worth as team men.

Well, as initially explained, the PBA would have died a natural death if it had not banned the zone.

They said the zone defense would have cramped the fluid, graceful style of the Pinoy player.

It was, as the geniuses had suggested, like letting a bride make love on her honeymoon without first taking off her matrimonial gown.

The zone was perceived to be both stiff and metallic. In short, The Nuisance.

* * *

So what happened?

In its first major assignment, the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing, the first group of PBA stars to represent the country in an international contest got both wrecked and shamed.

In its fist match with powerhouse China, whose zone defense was said to be next only to the Great Wall, the PBA stars lost by 65 points!

That team, however, finished with the silver medal because, as you well know, the luck of the draw did not pit it against tough South Korea in the crossover semis.

Two successive trips to the Asiad, in 1994 and 1998, by two more PBA selections proved even less rewarding.

* * *

Why? Well, you need not be a great basketball scholar to realize that one team cannot cram to fully relearn the zone defense and still emerge victorious in a big international tournament.

Unless, of course, that league happens to be the NBA.

But then, as could be borne out by the shaky finish of the NBA selection in last year's Sydney Olympics, totally shunning the zone is dangerous to a basketball country's health.

The NBA selection of Vince Carter and Kevin Garnett got the shock of their lives when they nearly got tripped by the solid zone-playing Lithuanians in the Olympic semifinals.

So what has the NBA done? Last heard of, the NBA has announced it would again embrace the zone defense and make it a vital part of its tournament, the toughest and best in the world.

* * *

Now, this need not be told, but since its early years, your deadline beater here had been batting for the adoption of the zone defense in the PBA.

That suggestion, as expected, had been repeatedly laughed off.

No, I don't exactly feel victorious with what Commissioner Jun Bernardino had to announce that the zone defense is well on its way to the PBA games.

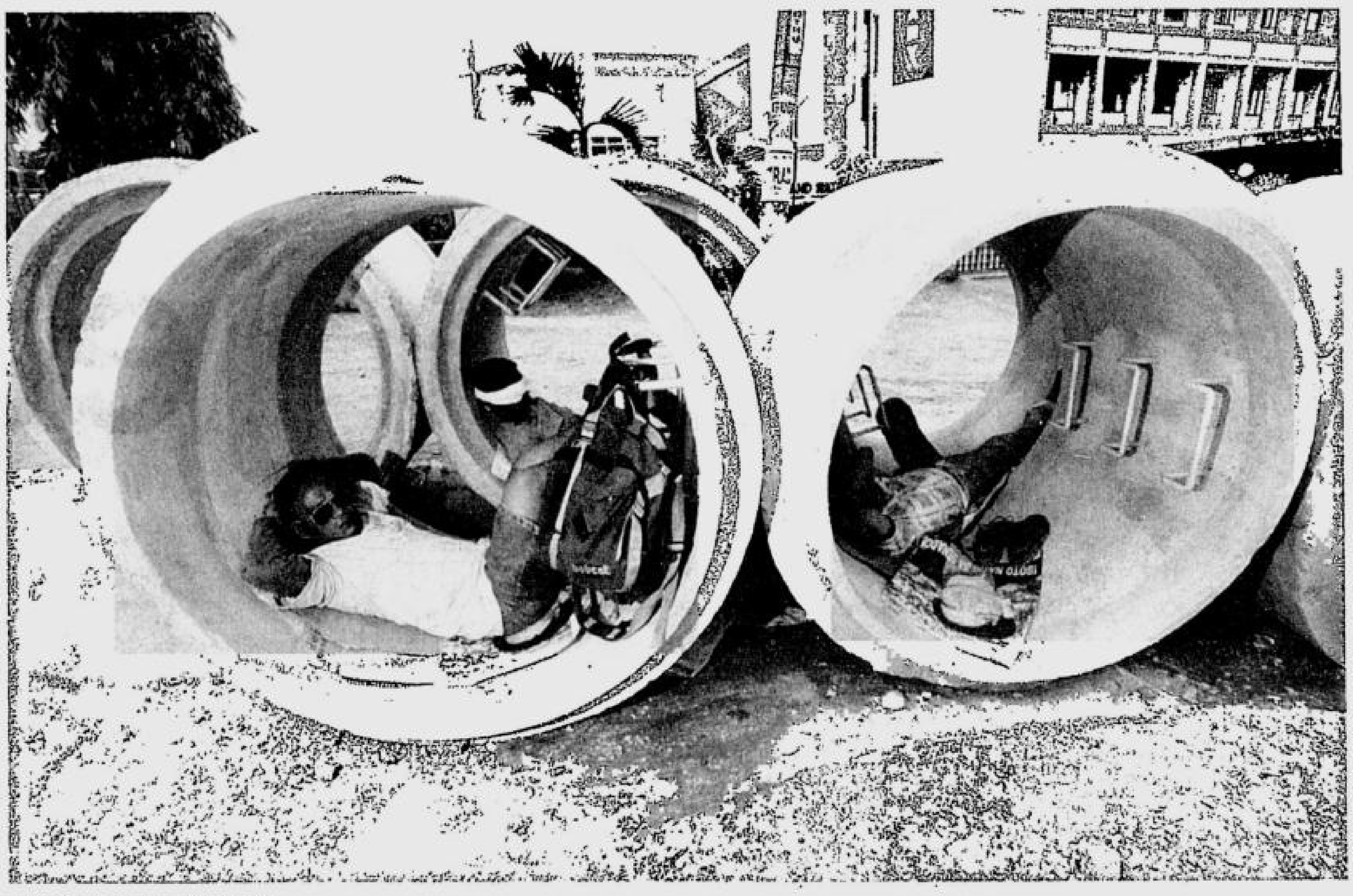
I salute Jun B. for that great gesture. He could, in a way, be owning up to the big faults of his predecessors.

"By allowing the zone, we would take away illegal defense and be speeding up the game and thereby increasing scoring," Bernardino explained.

I would have, however, given Mr. Bernardino a two-handed salute if he had, say, made that announcement a bit earlier.

Jun B. could have beaten the NBA to the draw had he listened to his conscience and embraced the once dreaded zone much earlier.

So, only a one-handed salute, Sir. Better late than never.



COOL IN CONCRETE

During these steaming summer days, when the heat seems to slap you as soon as you step out the door, any shelter from the swelter is welcome, like these cement pipes that these men found on Visayas Avenue in Quezon City. DENNIS SABANGAN

8 'kotong' cops arrested

(From page 23)

Most of the policemen who were arrested were members of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) traffic enforcement unit assigned to direct traffic on Edsa.

A member of the Northern Police District (NPD) was the first to be arrested after he tried to victimize for the second time a Chinese from whom he had already collected tong a day earlier.

Seven MMDA traffic enforcers got the surprise of their lives later in the afternoon when they learned that on board the bus they flagged down on Edsa, apparently to extort money from its driver, were about 15 PNP intelligence agents disguised as passengers.

When the agents, all members of the Criminal Intelligence and Detection Group (CIDG)-Detection and Special Operations Office (DSOO), pounced on the suspects, the uniformed mulcters tried to escape but were eventually cornered.

A report to Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, CIDG director, identified those arrested as Victorino Rodriguez, 36, of Magsilo, Malabon; Bernard Marcelo, 32, Taguig; Efren Balqua, 40, of Twinville in Marikina; Rolando Rebueno, 33, of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City; Canlas Deang, 27, of Barangka in Mandaluyong City; Aristotle Modesto, 28, of Balut, Tondo; and Virgilio Ugaddan, 33, a regular MMDA employee for more than 20 years.

The report identified the arrested policeman as SPO1 Perlito Amar of the NPD.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, immediately ordered the dismissal of Amar from the service.

Wu Li Ya of Unit 904 Pines Tower, Galerias de Binondo in Manila, claimed that Amar extorted some P200,000 from her by introducing himself as an agent of the Bureau of Immigration (BI). When Amar demanded more money, Ya went to the police, who set a trap.

Amar was caught by CIDG agents in the act of accepting marked P10,000 money from the Chinese.

Engineer dies in car-bus collision on Edsa

AN ELECTRICAL engineer was killed after a bus crashed head-on with the van he was driving on Edsa in Quezon City yesterday morning.

Rudy Perez, 51, a senior electrical engineer of the Megger Construction Services Inc. and a resident of 46 Camilo Osias St., New Haven Ville, Novaliches, Quezon City, died on the spot after a GBM Transport Bus (NVU 463) rammed into his Nissan Vanette (WBM-425), traffic police said.

The unidentified bus driver escaped.

The Central Police District Traffic Sector V said four of his passengers, including a 2-year-old boy, were injured. They were identified as Laur Menhard, 2; Analyn Gabito, 19; Rodolfo Jacinto, 42; and Agustin Villariz.

The bus was moving fast on the southbound lane of Edsa around 6 a.m. yesterday when the accident happened near the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue, police said.

The driver allegedly lost control of the bus, which climbed the traffic island and drove right into the northbound traffic.

Things happened so fast that Perez was not able to avoid the bus, which crashed head-on with his van.

Minutes after the bus driver escaped, the injured victims were brought to the East Avenue Medical Center, police said.

Police are coordinating with the GBM bus firm to identify the driver responsible for the accident.

Yesterday's crash was the third fatal vehicular accident to hit the metro this week. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Guard shoots partner to death, then himself

A BUREAU of Customs guard reportedly shot to death his estranged wife and then himself on a street in Muntinlupa City yesterday morning.

The guard, Edwin Rapuson, died on the spot from a reportedly self-inflicted bullet wound in the head. His wife Violeta died at the Muntinlupa City Medical Center from gunshot wounds in the head and arms.

Investigators led by PO2 Felix Paor said jealousy was the most probable motive for the shooting, as the man and the woman were said to have been living separately.

Relatives of the couple told police the pair broke up because of the husband's jealousy.

The couple used to live at Mutual Homes Subdivision Phase 3 in Putatan. Police also learned that Violeta, an employee of a shipping firm, recently arrived from California.

PO2 Paor said the guard probably learned about this and went to confront Violeta.

Rapuson reportedly fired at Violeta as she was about to board a jeepney on Putatan Road in Soldiers' Hills, Putatan, Muntinlupa around 8:15 a.m.

The jeepney driver, Reynaldo Villaceran, told investigator PO2 Felix Paor that the man and the woman were arguing loudly while he waited for both or one of them to board the jeepney.

Villaceran said Rapuson suddenly drew a .38-caliber service firearm and shot his wife as she was about to get onto the jeepney. The other passengers, frightened, jumped out of the vehicle.

The guard approached his wife, made sure she was dead and pointed the gun at his temple, the driver said.

Jerome Aning

NPD buy-bust bags two young men with shabu

TWO YOUNG men may be facing execution by lethal injection after police arrested them and found at least 200 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" in their possession during a drug buy-bust operation in Malabon.

If found guilty, Jamil Mala, 25, and Rusty Malang, 18, both of Baltazar Street in Caloocan, might be given the lethal injection because of the large quantity of shabu found on them when they were arrested on Wednesday.

The illegal substance, which was in two transparent plastic bags found on the two young men, is estimated to be worth at least P130,000, police said.

The suspects are now facing criminal charges before the Malabon Prosecutor's Office.

Members of the Northern Police District Drug Enforcement Unit led by chief Insp. Virgilio Olalia arrested the suspects during a drug buy-bust operation in a house on C-4 Road in Barangay Taniong at about 10 p.m. on Wednesday.

Investigation showed that PO1 Joel Fernandez acted as buyer and agreed to buy 200 grams of shabu from the suspects.

Police said Fernandez and the suspects agreed to meet in a house owned by a police informer on C-4 Road.

At least nine members of the DEU were in the vicinity during the operation.

As soon as the suspects took out the shabu, policemen barged into the house and arrested them.

The suspects, who are now detained at the NPD headquarters, said they got the shabu from a supplier in Quiapo, Manila.

Christian V. Esguerra

2 sisters kidnap son of OFW for P50,000

By Jerome Aning

WESTERN Police District members yesterday arrested two sisters for allegedly abducting their 9-year-old ward, the son of an overseas worker, to force the mother to pay them P50,000 for raising the boy while she was abroad.

Helen Gabriel, 40, of San Nicolas Subdivision, Cabanatuan City, and her sister Rosalyn Galindez, 30, of Katubusan Street, San Juan, will be charged with kidnapping for ransom, said Chief Insp. Eduardo Villena, head of the WPD general assignments section.

The two women were caught in their hideout at Forest Hills Subdivision in Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City. The boy, Jonathan Brian Cortejos, was rescued unharmed.

Investigator SPO3 Diosdado Lagajino said the sisters were arrested based on the complaint of the boy's mother Maria Lita Cortejos, 26, of Old Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Cortejos said that on Wednesday afternoon, the two sisters sneaked into her house while she was away and abducted Jonathan Brian. She said the sisters later phoned her and demanded P50,000.

According to SPO3 Lagajino, Cortejos left her son in the custody of the two sisters' father, Antonio Galindez, 70, in Cabanatuan when she left the country to work in Malaysia years ago. She said she visited the boy periodically and sent money for his needs.

After another long absence, she returned to San Juan on April 2 to claim her son after she decided to put up a business and stay in Manila.

She told police that her son had neglected his studies and has been sickly.

Cortejos said she left P11,000 cash to Antonio Galindez, the father of the two women. Police said the sisters apparently thought the money was not enough so they abducted the boy.

Ex-convict arrested again for robbery cases in Pasig

EN-CONVICT Roger de Guia may soon be reunited with his former inmates. He was arrested late Wednesday evening for a series of robbery cases in Pasig City, said Insp. Rodante Arcigal of the Pasig City police.

It was learned that De Guia, 29, has served 10 years in jail for raping and killing a woman in 1989. Only 17 years old when he committed the crime, he was subsequently given parole. De Guia was still under probation when he was arrested again.

Arcigal said the suspect is listed as one of the 10 most wanted persons in the city, having gained notoriety for staging a series of jeepney and taxi holdup incidents.

De Guia was arrested after he was positively identified by three of his victims, Rafael Rodriguez, Estelita Ramos and Anacleto Garcia, when they were shown photographs of possible suspects.

De Guia, along with three companions, was held for robbing jeepney passengers on March 25 and a cell phone accessory store in Barangay San Nicholas on April 1, among other crimes.

The last heist De Guia allegedly pulled off happened about 2:30 p.m. on April 2.

The victim, a taxi driver, said he was driving his Tamaraw FX along Malvar Street in Barangay Manggahan when De Guia and three other men flagged him down. They asked to be brought to Caloocan City, he said.

Minutes later, De Guia pointed a gun at him and took his earnings of about P11,000, he said.

De Guia is detained at the Pasig police station. His three cohorts are still at large.

Agnes E. Donato

Smoke-belching drive resumes

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said the MMDA would resume its anti-smoke belching campaign today.

The MMDA temporarily stopped apprehending smoke-belchers in January after the Land Transportation Office did not renew the deputation of the MMDA in rounding up violators.

Abalos earlier urged the LTO to stop the smoke-belching problem.

He said the apprehension of smoke belchers only aggravates the traffic problem.

Today, MMDA personnel will be looking out for smoke belchers in five areas on Edsa: in front of Heritage Hotel in Pasay City, the Manila Paper Mills in Caloocan City, and Camp Aguinaldo Gate 5, National Irrigation Administration and Thriftway in Quezon City.

Agnes E. Donato

Tricycle driver murders wife who wanted to leave

By Philip C. Tubeza

TRICYCLE driver Michael R. Sanchez, 23, did not want his live-in partner to leave him. So when she insisted, Sanchez bashed her head with an empty gin bottle.

Sanchez, of Sauyo Road, Barangay Sauyo, Novaliches, Quezon City, was charged yesterday for the murder of his common-law wife Michelle A. Herrero, 21, said PO3 Leo Tabuena, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Sanchez is detained at the CPD-CIU in Camp Karingal, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

The couple had quarreled over marital problems in their house at about 2 p.m. Monday, Tabuena said.

From behind bars, Sanchez told the Inquirer that he merely wanted his wife to get their baby back from her mother.

Sanchez said Herrero wanted to leave him "for a while" to sort out their problems. The woman took their one-year-old daughter to her mother's house in Manila, the investigator said.

Sanchez said he tried to convince his partner to stay, but she did not listen to him. She kept on insisting that they should part ways for a while and "let things cool down."

But by then Sanchez had lost his temper, Tabuena said. In a fit of anger, Sanchez took an empty gin bottle and hit Herrero's head with it, knocking her unconscious.

When he realized what he had done, Sanchez took Herrero to the Quezon City General Hospital.

But the victim never regained consciousness. Doctors declared her dead at about 5:15 a.m. on Tuesday, Tabuena said. Her body was later taken to the National Bureau of Investigation for autopsy.

Tabuena said relatives accompanied Sanchez when he surrendered to the Novaliches police, who turned him over to the CIU.

Quezon City prosecutors did not recommend bail for Sanchez, police said.

Atienza calls for 'principled' campaign but pokes fun at Lim

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday called on his opponents in the mayoral race and other local candidates in the May 14 elections to conduct "a principled and issues-oriented" campaign instead of resorting to mudslinging.

At the same time, however, Atienza continued to poke fun and hurl insults at his predecessor, former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim.

"Let's avoid throwing dirt at one another," Atienza said in a press statement. "It's better for Manila politics if we will talk about what we have done and our programs."

On various television and radio programs, Atienza, Lim, former congressman Amado Bagatsing and four independent candidates are campaigning to get the votes of the capital's 900,000 voters.

Lim and Atienza used to host programs on rival TV stations.

This week, Atienza became busy defending himself against a barrage of tirades from Lim and his camp, including an accusation that the incumbent city chief executive misused millions of pesos donated to the city government by the Philippine Amusement and Games Corp.

Atienza said the donations were used in improving and beautifying public places such as Plaza Miranda and the Lacson Underpass, playgrounds and bridges.

He said the money was also used in street-lighting projects and in the construction and repair of 23 health centers, 900 city streets and even national roads totaling 46 km.

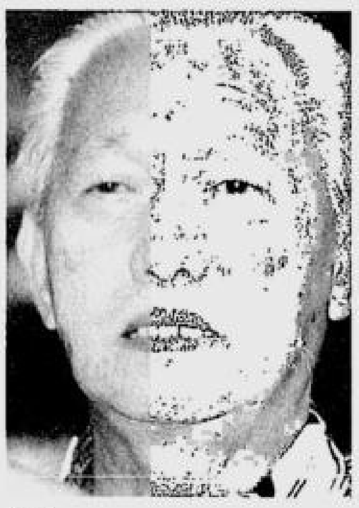
Lim, however, claimed that the Plaza Miranda improvement was overpriced, and insinuated that Atienza made money from the project.

In a dinner hosted by police retirees on Tuesday night at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel, Lim called Atienza "a thief" and accused him of raking in millions of pesos in anomalous contracts, such as the one with the Leonel Waste Management, which handles the city's garbage disposal.

"If you want a tumultuous Manila, vote for Atienza," Lim said in Filipino.

Atienza denied Lim's charges and told reporters that what Lim was doing "is the desperate attempt of a losing candidate."

ATIENZA

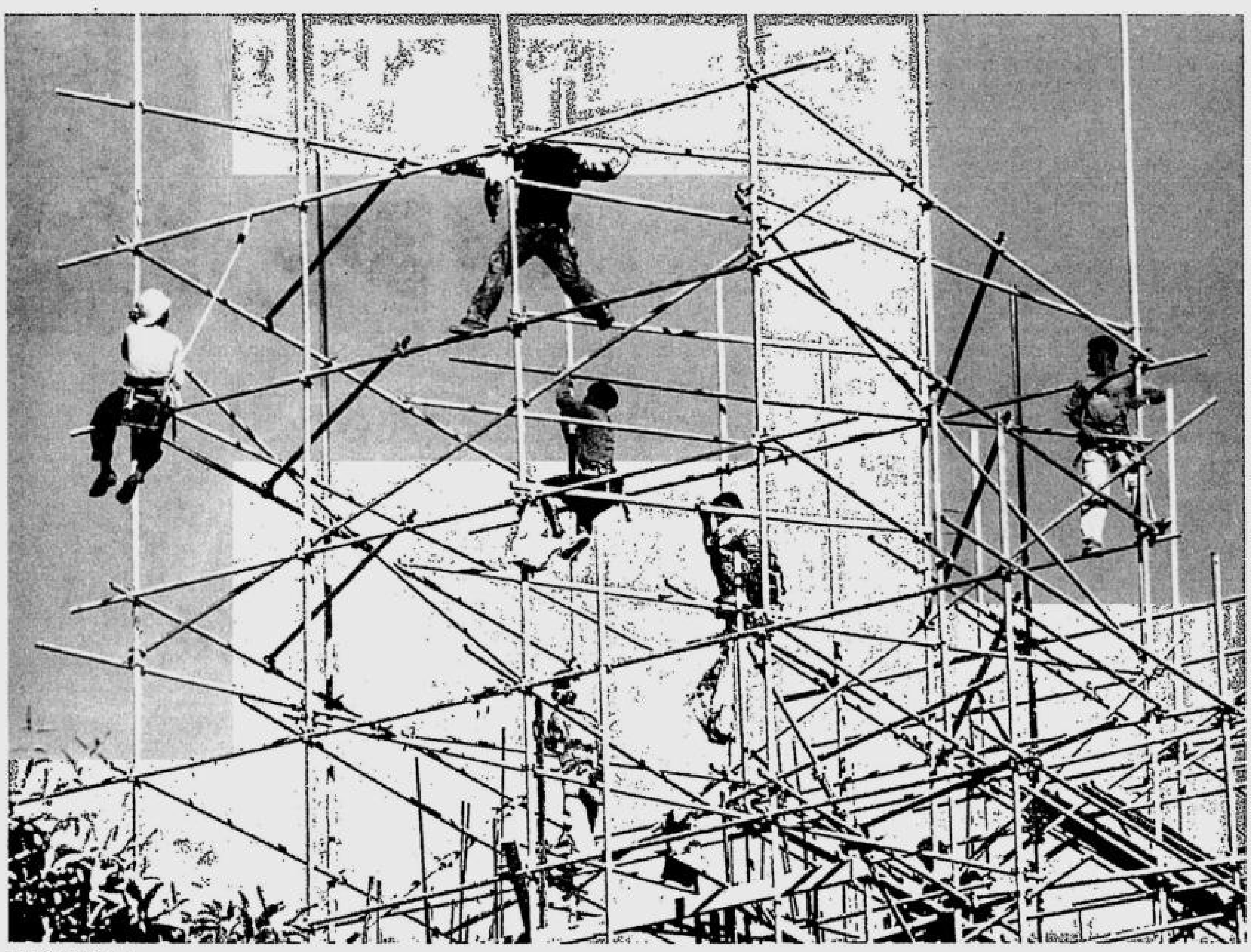

LIM

Lim said smugglers and drug lords even donated P300 million to Atienza's campaign fund. One of Atienza's campaign managers, Kim Wong, Lim charged, is a suspected drug lord.

But the mayor renounced this charge and said Wong was also Lim's campaigner when Lim ran for mayor and then for president in 1998.

He said Lim should have had Wong arrested when he was still interior secretary.

Atienza said he preferred not to mind his opponents' campaign tricks but he warned that he would not take sitting down any attempt by his rivals to smear his "good name" through baseless accusations and outright lies.


INC SPOT

DENNIS SABANGAN

The steel bars that these men are putting together form the framework of a new Iglesia ni Cristo church that is rising in Imus, Cavite.

SUMMER SIZZLES

These people flock to the breakwaters on Manila Bay to take a break from the heat of summer.

ERIK ARAZAS

Malabon to get cityhood, P400M

THE FLOOD-PRONE town of Malabon will receive P400 million in internal revenue allotment from the national government for this year as it is set to attain cityhood after a plebiscite two weeks from today.

On March 5, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law Republic Act No. 9019, which declared Malabon a "highly urbanized city."

Malabon's cityhood campaign began with House Bill No. 8868 filed by Rep. Ricky Sandoval three years ago. The bill was approved on Dec. 19 the following year.

The town will attain cityhood after the plebiscite on April 21.

Once it becomes a city, the Malabon local government will increase its IRA share from P167 million to P400 million.

The additional amount will enable the local government to put up funds for education, scholarship, health and livelihood.

Despite becoming a city, Malabon will not increase local taxes, according to the local government. Any increase will have to be approved by the city council.

The combined Malabon-Navotas congressional district will also remain despite Malabon's cityhood.

Christian V. Esguerra

Heirs of deceased PAF men get P2 million

THE PHILIPPINE Air Force (PAF) has released more than P2 million for the heirs of its deceased members.

A total of P2,063,010 was allotted for the legal beneficiaries of 12 PAF officers and nine enlisted men who died in the line of duty.

The amount forms part of the special finance assistance (SFA) granted under Republic Act No. 6963.

RA 6963 entitles the legal beneficiaries of deceased PAF members to special financial aid to help them pay for funeral expenses.

Among the recipients of the assistance were the beneficiaries of the late Maj. Gen. Santiago R. Madrid Jr., Capt. Edicson Co, 1Lts. Mario Jose Laplana, Danilo Cordial, Sabeniano Depay, John Eric Leonor, Roderick Adjaime and Neil Osito Bahian, 2Lts Simon Farbas, Alvin Alvaran, Glenn Villanueva and Rodel Zaldivar;

M/Sgt. Avelino Camina, S/gt. Romeo Labita, Sgts. Elpedio German, Haribert Divina, Roel Morales and Edgar Derije, A1C Wilfredo Luzano, and A2Cs Bernard Podador and Marlon Apolinario.

After losing Mutya and Miss Asia, ex-beauty queen puts up her own contests

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IN PUTTING up two new beauty contests—Miss Philippines and Miss Earth—beauty queen and former TV/movie actress **Lorraine Schuck** isn't trying to get even with the organizers of the Mutya ng Pilipinas and Miss Asia Pacific Quest, which her Carousel Productions used to stage.

Lorraine says there's no bad blood between her and **Leandro "Biboy" Enriquez**, chair of the Miss Asia Pacific Quest Inc. (MAPQI), even after the latter did not renew the contract of Carousel Productions to stage the beauty contests.

"We were producing Mutya and Miss Asia Pacific for nine years, but last year, we found out they didn't want us anymore," Lorraine says.

Enriquez gave the TV and production rights to GMA 7, which will present both pageants starting this year.

"It was a business decision and we respect that," Lorraine says. "GMA may have a better offer. But instead of fighting with the MAPQI group, we decided to come up with our own contests."

Lorraine is putting up the two new pageants with the help of other beauty queens who are all Mutya ng Pilipinas winners. The first Miss Philippines search will be held April 28. The winner will represent the country in the international tilt, Miss Earth, to be held Nov. 17.

"I'm still lucky because my sponsors never left me," Lorraine says. "Unilever will support the new pageants that Carousel Productions will stage.

"We have developed expertise in mounting world-class beauty competitions so we didn't want to put that to waste."

Lorraine recalls that in May 2000, after Carousel Productions mounted the Mutya ng Pilipinas pageant, Carousel received an anonymous letter urging them to convert the Miss Asia Pacific Quest into the Miss Earth pageant, which the letter said has a "vision, mission and goal pertaining to environmental consciousness."

"That's why when we found out we would not produce Mutya and Miss Asia anymore, we decided to go with the Miss Philippines and Miss Earth pageants," Lorraine shares.

Carousel will bring to Manila 50 Miss Earth contestants from around the globe.

"Even European countries were very receptive to our invitation to the pageant, which is meant to promote environmental awareness," Lorraine shares.

"This pageant will focus not just on femininity and beauty but, more important, on love and respect for Mother Earth."

Carousel will work with selected organizations and adopt environmental causes and projects which the contestants will help publicize and which the winners will promote during their reign.

"Miss Earth is really different compared to other beauty pageants," Lorraine says. "Even in the swimsuit and long gown competition, the theme is environmental. The questions that will be asked to the candidates will also pertain to the environment."

For the nationwide Miss Philippines contest, Carousel will spend P10 million for the production, and will give the winner P250,000.

For the international tilt, Carousel will double the production budget and will reward the winner with $20,000 in cash.

Lorraine is the vice president of Carousel Productions. The president is **Ramon Monzon**, her partner of 15 years.

Peachy Veneracion, who won the Mutya crown in 1977, is project director for both pageants. She is now in the provinces conducting the regional search for Miss Philippines.

Raquel Uy, 1999 Mutya Queen of the Year winner, is assistant project director. **Rochelle Ong**, 1998 Mutya, **Ritchie Ocampo** and **Joji Velarde** are also in the team.

Actress **Chin-Chin Gutierrez** and character actor **Roy Alvarez** will help Carousel in orienting the contestants.

Sixteen years after she won the Mutya Asia Pacific crown, Lorraine remains every inch a beauty queen. Like most beauty queens, she spent some years in show biz, starring in the sitcom "Chicks to Cheeks" which later became "Chika, Chika Chicks." She was also in the soap "Anna Luna."

In movies, her most memorable role was as leading lady to action king **Fernando Poe Jr.** in "Kapag Lumaban ang Api."

The Zamboanga native went to Manila in 1975 and enrolled in business administration at St. Paul's College Manila. When she was in her junior year, she joined the Mutya ng Pilipinas even without the knowledge of her family.

"They only came to Manila on pageant night and they were all so proud of me when I won," she recalls.

LORRAINE Schuck (front, seated) with the organizers of the Miss Philippines and Miss Earth beauty contests: (standing from left) Raquel Uy, Ritchie Ocampo, Peachy Veneracion and Rochelle Ong.

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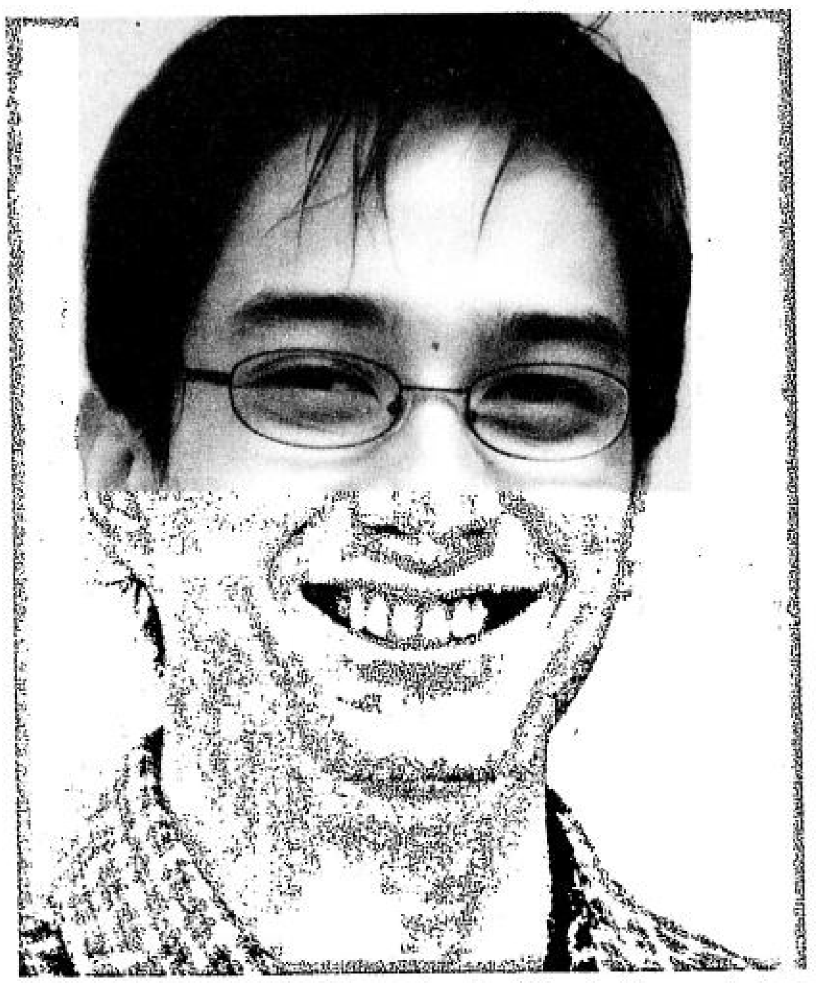
Cinderella's long wee



LETTING HIS hair down, Ryan talks about big decisions and plans and having "Sex."

Why Talk TV's Ryan Agoncillo made the big crossover and cut his hair

By Remy M. Umerez

TOM Cruise is not a tall man by American standards, but he is a giant when it comes to opening Hollywood movies. Ryan Agoncillo, too, is not a towering figure, but he soon may just be the biggest name on Philippine television.

Ryan, whose transfer from GMA to ABS-CBN could bring him more benefits than he ever imagined, talked about his decision, during a recent lunch at Moomba (where food, by the way, is above ordinary but the service is far from great).

Ryan says he had no contract with GMA and the parting of ways was smooth and cordial. The crossover from one network to another is a big career move for the 22-year-old TV host and commercial model who wants to keep on growing and developing as a person. Part of that growth is co-hosting the new late morning show "Talk TV," together with Julius Babao, Tintin Bersola and Janet McBride.

"Talk TV" has hard news, entertainment and music updates, human interest features and sports. It is supposedly more freewheeling and more open to possibilities than the other morning shows, whether that means featuring a hearty debate, interactive on-location exchanges and even role-switching with celebrities as audiences and ordinary people as guest.

How would "Talk TV" differ from Ryan's former morning show? "I don't have to wake up that early," he said. "And certainly, the new show requires more muscle to flex."

What convinced Ryan to accept the offer, aside from the "fat" pay ABS CBN is known to give its hosts and newscasters?

"I want to do a lot of music videos and part of my contract has this option of directing at least two for Star Records or segments in whatever show my service would be needed," Ryan explained.

Very soon, the witty and unassuming Ryan will also be part of "Keep On Dancing" where he, together with Charlene Gonzales and the other hosts, will interview guests. He was also promised a magazine show on Studio 23.

Directing has always fascinated Ryan, who is an AB Organizational Communication student at the De La Salle University. He previously directed "Y2K," hosted by Maxine Magalona, for one season on IBC 13. He has also worked behind the camera for the production company DV Post Digital Editing, of which he is part owner and which caters to students and does off-line editing jobs.

Ryan recently completed his thesis, an audio-visual presentation for Ocean Heritage Foundation featuring how divers help protect the underwater environment and marine life.

Ryan said he was so engrossed with his thesis he failed to have his hair trimmed, an oversight which turned into a major hair issue among watchers of "Talk TV." He eventually realized that he has to set a good example by looking neat and responsible.

"Cutting my hair isn't much of a sacrifice," he said. "It's more of a call of duty. I guess only Brad Pitt, whom I idolize, can get away with messy hair or dirty fingernails without losing his sex appeal. Over here we are obliged to maintain a certain look."

Ryan bid GMA's "Unang Hirit" goodbye at the same time that Tintin and Julius were saying farewell to ABS-CBN's "Alas Singko y Media." On "Talk TV," Julius is the big brother to the rest, while everyone treats McBride as the younger sister.

Ryan admitted he has a girlfriend who is Canada-bound to pursue her studies. He hopes the distance that will stand between them will not change anything in their relationship.

On the list of people he admires are Martin Nievera and Sharon Cuneta.

"Martin has a very unique and endearing way of hosting while I find Sharon to be a very good person," he said. "Definitely, there's more to her than her being a megastar. I would like to make a documentary on her interesting life."

He said he watches cable TV's "Sex in the City" every chance he gets because it is a thoroughly modern show, although he sometimes finds the values presented questionable.

He considers Charlize Theron, not Sarah Jessica Parker of "Sex and the City," as truly sexy. On the local front, his choice is Charlene.

So, what really made him move from one network to another?

The answer is that Ryan Agoncillo, only on his second year in show business, wants to achieve so much more than just being a talk show host.

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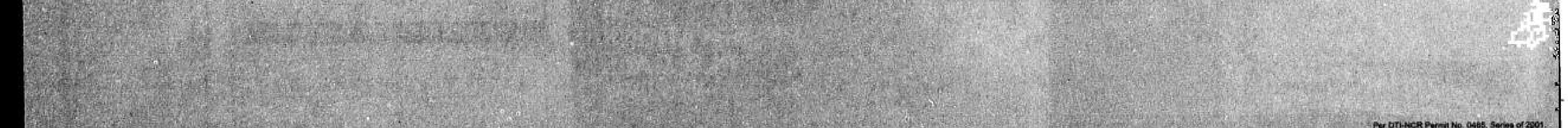

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6	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN (RI)
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	GLADIATOR (RI)
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
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2	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
7	DOLBY SURROUND	ACHILLES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN (RI)
11	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	DTS	THEY NEST
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER (RI)
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	ACHILLES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
7	DTS	GLADIATOR (RI)
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

SM SOUTHMALL 8066868 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
9	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THEY NEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	GLADIATOR (RI)
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BILLY ELLIOT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
6	ULTRA SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

SM PAMPANGA 7126015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	GLADIATOR (RI)
3	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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2	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	SEDUCER
4	THEY NEST

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE GIFT	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	GLADIATOR THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SECRET OF THE ANDES (Art Film)	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	CHOCOLAT	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SAVE THE LAST DANCE	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	WEDDING PLANNER	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	MALENA	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	GLADIATOR	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	APRIL 6, 7, 20, & 21 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	GLADIATOR THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE GIFT	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	WEDDING PLANNER	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	CHOCOLAT	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

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1 (DDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
3 (DTS)	GREEN MILE
4 GOLD (DTS)	GLADIATOR
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
6 GOLD (SDDS)	YOU'VE GOT MAIL
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
8 [illegible]	ERIN BROCKOVICH
9 [illegible]	ROMEO MUST DIE
10 [illegible]	PATRIOT

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	UHAW SA INIT
2	KRISTO
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS) Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	GLADIATOR
2 (DTS)	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA.
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA.
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	UHAW SA INIT

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	DI MAPIGL ANG INIT
3	UHAW SA INIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	GLADIATOR
5	KRISTO

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	RESERVE
3	THEY NEST
4	UHAW SA INIT
5	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6	GLADIATOR
7	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA..
8	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Uniwide Metromall
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2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
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2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
A	KRISTO

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	
3	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	GLADIATOR
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA..
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7 (DTS)	THE GIFT
8 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
9 (DOLBY)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
6 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
7 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
8	KRISTO
9	UHAW SA INIT

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
2	RESERVE
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	UHAW SA INIT
5 (SDDS)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
6	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA..
7 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
8	OOPS TEKA LANG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA..
3 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5 (SDDS)	GLADIATOR
6 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
7 (DOLBY)	RESERVE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
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MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
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1	KRISTO
2	GLADIATOR
3	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	WEDDING PLANNER

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	THEY NEST
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
3	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA..
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	TOTAL AIKIDO
4	GLADIATOR
5	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
6	OOOPS. TEKA LANG

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA...
3	KRISTO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BABAENG PUITK
2	UHAW SA INIT
3 (DTS)	GLADIATOR

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2 (DTS)	QUILLS
3 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
4	GLADIATOR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	GLADIATOR
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	UHAW SA INIT
4 (DTS)	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3 (DTS)	GLADIATOR
4	TOTAL AIKIDO
5	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	GLADIATOR
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	GLADIATOR
2	QUILLS
3	UHAW SA INIT

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	WOMAN ON TOP
2	PANABLA
3	UHAW SA INIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	GLADIATOR
3	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	OOOPS. TEKA LANG
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	RESERVE
4	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Cabuyao
CINEMAS TEL. (049) 5314808

1 (DTS)	BABAENG PUTIK
2 (DTS)	TANGING YAMAN

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	UHAW SA INIT
2	BABAENG PUTIK
3	TOTAL AIKIDO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BABAENG PUTIK
2	UHAW SA INIT
3	THE BAIT
4	WEDDING PLANNER

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	GLADIATOR
2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	ANAK
4 (DTS EX)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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Eraserheads rocks new night spot in Davao

IT will be a star-studded, scorching summer fun at The Venue, the hottest entertainment hub in Davao, as popular singers and bands heat up the concert stage, with performances throughout April and May until early June.

Perk up your nightlife and party on into the night as The Venue presents The Eraserheads tonight and tomorrow night, while Jaya takes centerstage on April 28.

The Wise Guys sizzle from April 27 to May 5 and Side A Band holds a special, one-night show on May 26.

Comic duo Allan K and Ai-Ai de las Alas will bring the whole house down with their wit and music on June 1 and 2.

The Venue is located at the corner of Quirino Avenue and Jacinto Extension in Davao City.

For inquiries, call (082) 222-9435 or (082) 224-4150. Or e-mail venue@mozcom.com.

'Cory Quirino Show'

IT'S all about empowerment of the individual and the celebration of life every Saturday on "The Cory Quirino Show," 5 p.m. on RPN 9.

To be featured this week on "CQ & A" is hairstylist James Cooper.

A sampling of the superb dishes at Chateau 1771 will be featured in the show's "Food Trip" segment.

"Wonders" portion features HarBest, an agri-business corporation that specializes in homegrown edibles.

For the "Angel Barkada" segment, the spotlight is on Wonderworks Kitches and its owner manager, Nat Thomas.

"The Cory Quirino Show" is produced by Sports World Media and Entertainment Inc.

'Summer Stummer'

CITY Lite 88.3 treats its lucky listeners to an exhilarating experience via the "City Lite Summer Stunner," April 7 at Montemar Beach Resort in Bataan.

Participants can look forward to a fabulous getaway with wind surfing, swimming, paddle bikes, water skiing and beach volleyball.

Back in the metro, City Lite starts its "Ultimate Bar Tour" for April, with Parliament Syndicate at Ibarra's Garden and Grill Restaurant in Malate on April 18 and Passage at Streetlife in Makati on April 25.

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4. SEDUCER
5. PERFECT STORM / ROMEO MUST DIE
6. SAVE THE LAST DANCE
7. THE GIFT

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3. THEY NEST
4. SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5. PERFECT STORM / ROMEO MUST DIE
6. DIMAPIGIL ANG INIT

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. WEDDING PLANNER
2. SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3. MS. CONGENIALITY
4. QUILLS
5. TOO MUCH FLESH
6. PURPLE STORM

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	GLADIATOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THEY NEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	GLADIATOR
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
MIRAMAR	TUHOG / FIRST DESIRE
ODEON	GLADIATOR
ODEON-2	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA
ROBEN	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
TANDEM-1	UHAW SA INIT
TANDEM-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
TIMES	EYE OF BEHOLDER / REMEMBER THE TITANS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
QUEZON-1	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR	SEDUCER
REMAR-2	UHAW SA INIT
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SECRET OF THE ANDES
CINEMA-2	MS CONGENIALITY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-2	BABAENG PUTIK
CINEMA-3	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	QUILLS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAIT
CINEMA-6	PANABLA
CINEMA-7	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-8	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THEY NEST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE GIFT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-12	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-14	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-15	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	RED PLANET
CINEMA-3	PROOF OF LIFE
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-2	GLADIATOR
CINEMA-3	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-4	THE GIFT
CINEMA-5	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-6	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I MADE a mistake regarding the name of the Pasay Road Gap retail outlet. The name of the store is "@ the shop," not "@ the store" as I had written last Monday. Sorry about that.

***

Have you caught the first three episodes of the new season of "Dawson's Creek" (Mondays at 8 p.m. on Studio 23)? I've been watching religiously and this season has some of the most poignant and insightful episodes. I'm an admitted fan of **Katie Holmes (Joey)** and **Joshua Jackson (Pacey)** and I love the way their romance is playing out.

If you haven't been following the previous 3 seasons of "Dawson's Creek," here's a quick summary.

Dawson (played by **James van der Beek**) and Joey have been best buddies since childhood. Pacey and Dawson have also been best friends forever. Initially Joey pined for Dawson, who at the onset of the series was attracted to reformed bad girl **Jen** (played by **Michelle Williams**). Then Joey had a brief relationship with **Jack** (played by **Kerr Smith**) until Jack realized he was gay.

Joey and Dawson reconcile, things don't work out, Pacey and Joey discover the hidden heat they felt for each other and, after the first kiss, decide to go for it. Dawson finds out about their affair, feels betrayed and punches Pacey. Dawson tries to win Joey back. At the end of the third season, Dawson sets Joey free, to sail the seas for the entire summer witl: Pacey.

The first three episodes dealt with the love triangle of Dawson-Joey-Pacey. The awkwardness is very real, and the mixture of bitterness and pining that Dawson feels is heartbreaking.

"Dawson's Creek" is in my opinion the best-written contemporary drama on television today. The characters are supposed to be about 17 years old but their dialogue is wise and their experiences are universal for everybody who has ever fallen in love.

***

I've been soaking up so much of teen culture.

Last Sunday I caught the last full show of "Save the Last Dance" at Greenbelt cinema. The movie is basically about an interracial romance set in Chicago's inner-city starring **Julia Stiles** (I loved her in "10 Things I Hate About You" with **Heath Ledger** and "Then Came You" with **Freddie Prinze Jr.**) and newcomer **Sean Patrick Thomas.**

The movie is co-produced by MTV Films, and the soundtrack is a testament to the production's excellent musical choices. Hip-hop never sounded so good! The movie was No. 1 in its opening weekend in the US, grossing more than $26 million.

The story is very reminiscent of "Dirty Dancing" because of the forbidden love affair that blossoms because of the love for dance of the two leads. But unlike "Dirty Dancing" where the parents were the "contrabidas" in the **Patrick Swayze-Jennifer Grey** love affair, this movie shows that Julia's father is not a bigot, and it is the pressure from their peer group that leads to their initial separation.

The movie is an excellent step toward racial openness leading to better understanding. The problems the script highlights are very sensitive and in-tune with teen dilemmas and prevalent social injustices, whether in the US or here.

The movie also borrows from the formula of "Flashdance," about a girl auditioning to get into a venerable ballet institution. But thankfully, the movie respects the youth of its female lead and doesn't engage in suggestively choreographed dance numbers or explicit sex scenes.

Despite the inspiration from two 1980s dance-movie hits, "Save the Last Dance" is very now. It's maturely written, effectively acted, and the direction is paced just right. It's definitely worth seeing and the soundtrack is a must-buy.

Katie Holmes and Julia Stiles are two of the most talented young actresses of today. Julia in fact is now enrolled in Columbia University, which is an Ivy League institution. Both are beautiful on screen, yet in a natural and youthful, not manufactured way.

Ah, to be young again!

Less is more

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN **Erik Matti**'s "Sa Huling Paghihintay," a number of unexpected twists suggest that viewers could be in for a fresh take on the old, cliché-ridden movie love story format. For one thing, the lovers in this film (played by **Rica Peralejo** and **Bernard Palanca**) keep getting separated. Even at film's end, they end up in other people's arms. Not exactly your traditional slap-happy ending, right?

Next, the movie is interspersed with a series of short interviews of old couples who share their own love stories, some of them more whimsical and even comical than flat-out romantic.

And, unusual for a production starring Rica, the sex kitten of the moment, there are only three or so erotic sequences in this movie.

All these variations are welcome, and lead us to hope that the movie will be a refreshing departure from the done-to-death "sexy-romantic" flick. Well, it is—but only up to a point.

What keeps the movie from coming into its own as an innovative production is its self-indulgence. This prompts the movie to go into a number of detours and even dead ends that prevent it from coming across as a focused and cogent production.

Take the lovers' periodic separations. The first one is really baffling because no hint of trouble presages it: one fine day, Rica just ups and decides to leave for Manila without bothering to inform Bernard of her decision as late as one day before her departure.

Other leave-takings are similarly whimsical, making Rica's character too flighty and Bernard too much of a masochist for viewers to care much about.

But the most self-indulgent aspect of the movie is the overlong series of scenes in which the two lead characters join an acting workshop on campus in which they and other students are put through exercises that goad them into exorcising their demons and baring their souls.

A few minutes of this would be okay, but the scenes just go on and on, until they deteriorate into tedium and irritation. The campus theater element may hold resonances in the filmmaker's memories, but they don't sufficiently come to bear on viewers' perception of what the movie is really about.

On the plus side, the film offers effectively atmospheric or vivid images that enhance some scenes' romantic or dramatic function. Unfortunately, these striking visuals can't make up for the production's inconsistencies and moments of self-indulgence.

Rica's performance is earnest but awkward. As for Bernard, he has a strong screen presence, but can't make much out of his "doormat" character.

The movie's sexy scenes are well-chosen. Since there are only a few of them, viewers don't feel sated, as they do in many other sexy flicks that mistake quantity for quality and believe in zapping moviegoers with a kneejerk roll in the hay every 20 minutes or so.

"Sa Huling Paghihintay" proves that less is more. Too bad that some of its other elements fail to pass muster.

'Friday Frontiers'

AT 9 p.m. every Friday this month on the National Geographic Channel, interesting programs answer provocative questions about the world we live in.

Learn about the engineering principles and personal stories behind the construction of some of the world's greatest architectural achievements in "Skyscrapers and Bridges."

Why can't we tickle ourselves? That and other brain-stumpers are answered in "Life's Little Questions." The theory is, tickling is essentially a social activity. See **Alan Alda** test a tickling machine. Another question is, why do we yawn? Alan meets with a "yawning expert" to find out.

As for less trivial matters, tune in to "Life's Really Big Questions." How did life develop from single-cell organisms to multi-cellular creatures? Does extraterrestrial intelligence exist in the universe? Is the use of tools derived from human experience? Join Alda as he visits research labs all over the United States to find out.

Warner releases 'Edsa Dos' album

IN celebration of the Filipinos' success in Edsa II, Warner Music Philippines presents "Edsa Dos (Ooopps, We Did It Again)," a musical parody of the people and events that led to this historic repeat.

The 2nd Nvelop Band leads the lineup of artists in the album which contains songs that poke fun at the cast of characters of the now infamous impeachment trial and its 11 leading men and women.

Burst at the seams with songs like "Hibang" (sung to the tune of Ricky Martin's "She Bangs"), "Ang Mga Tuta" (sung to Baha Men's "Who Let the Dogs Out") and the Edsaa II 2 theme (sung to the tune of Britney Spears' "Ooops I Did It Again").

"Edsa Dos (Ooopps, We Did It Again)" is available in CDs and cassettes.

Teen heartthrob holds promo tour

GIL, the teen heartthrob who took the Philippines by storm a couple of years back, has a string of hits to his name including "Round 'n' Round," "Never Giving Up Now," "If You Only Knew," "Talk To You" and "It's Your Love."

Gil is internationally known and is a much sought-after singer-songwriter, as proven by his numerous awards and certifications all over the globe.

He has gold records in Malaysia, Korea, Singapore and Taiwan, platinum records in Germany, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

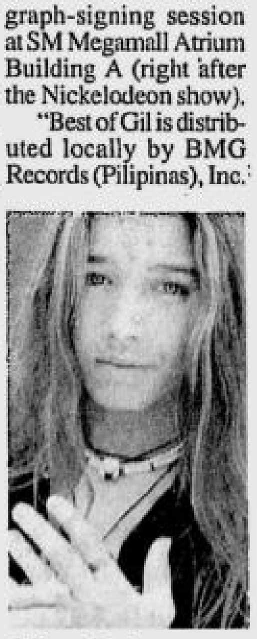
This month, Gil releases his third album, "Best of Gil," a collection of his well-loved hits from "Here I Am" and "The Album."

"Best of Gil" marks a milestone in Gil's career as it paves the way for the introduction of his much more mature style in music.

His new single, "Live Your Dreams," is an upbeat and danceable number with a Latin touch, and is fast becoming a favorite among local radio stations.

Gil is now on a promo visit to Manila. On Sunday, April 8 at 5:30 p.m., he will hold an autograph-signing session at SM Megamall Atrium Building A (right after the Nickelodeon show).

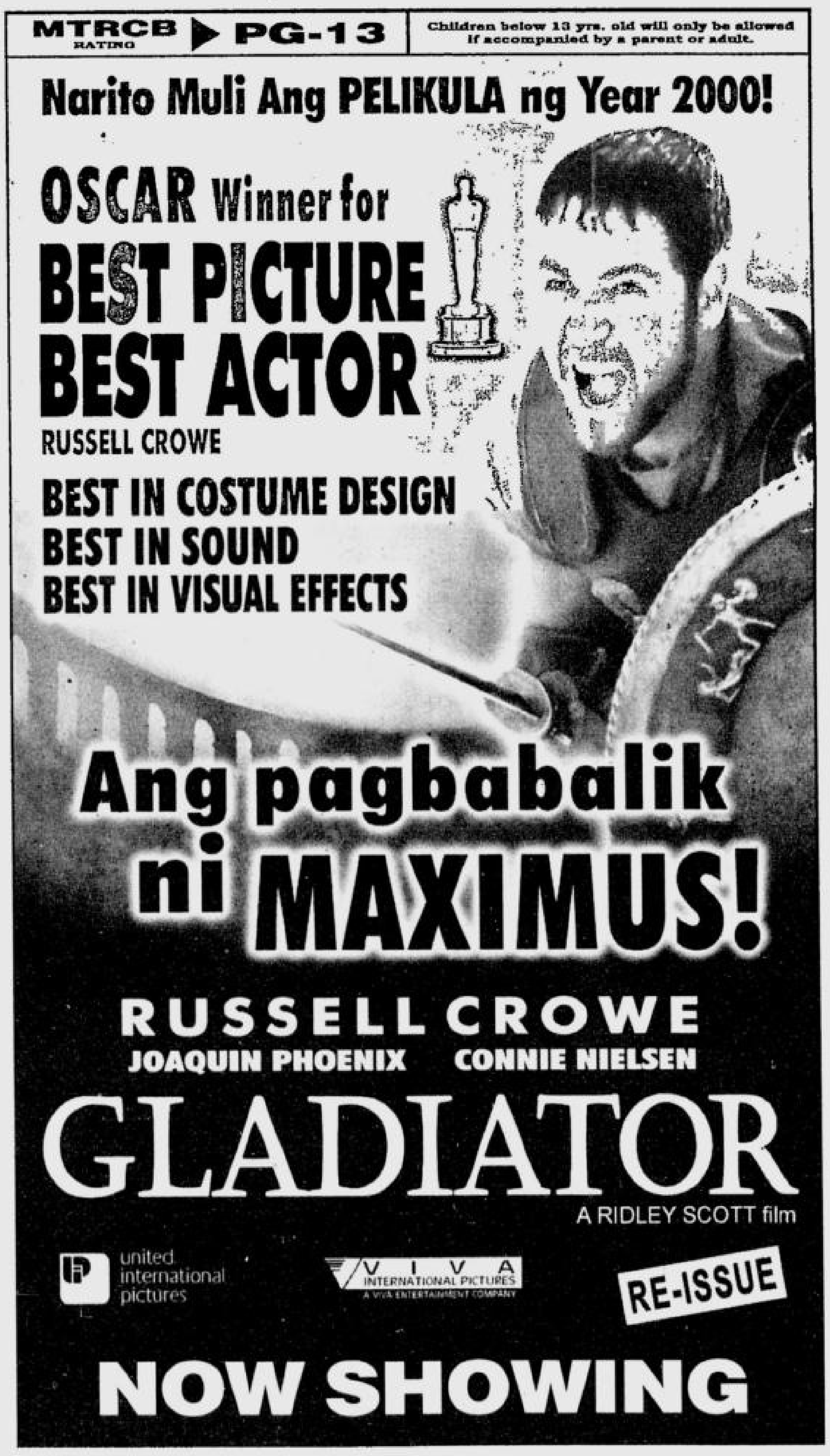
"Best of Gil is distributed locally by BMG Records (Pilipinas), Inc.



GIL. Releases a compilation album

'BUBBLE GANG' SUMMER SPECIAL

"Bubble Gang" welcomes summer with a big shebang in Palawan, which airs 8 tonight on GMA. The gang's resident beauties and hunks bare lots of skin as they frolic under the sun in bikinis and trunks in the lush Club Paradise Beach Resort. Sultry sirens Ara Mina, Assunta de Rossi, Sherilyn Reyes, Maricar de Mesa and Ida Manzano make TV screens sizzle, while comedians Ogie Alcasid, Michael V, Wendell Ramos and Antonio Aquitania are out to tickle funny bones.



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THE GIFT - P 13 11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30	TANGING YAMAN - G 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	SAVE THE LAST DANCE - P13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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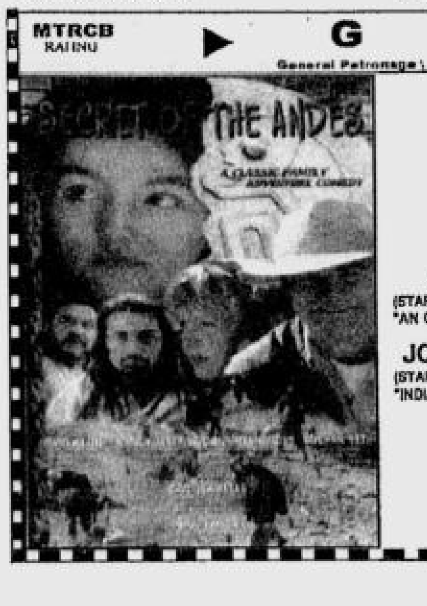

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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'Abakada' premiere

THE United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) will have a benefit premiere of "Abakada . . . Ina" tomorrow, Saturday, 8 p.m., at Glorietta 4 Cinema 6. Proceeds of the premiere will go to the female functional literacy program of the Philippine government assisted by AusAID and Unicef.

In the movie, Lorna Tolentino plays an illiterate market vendor who, in one instance, almost kills her child when she gives the wrong dosage of medicine. The movie is directed by Eddie Garcia.

For details, call Unicef at 892-6545 or 892-0611 local 338 or 259.

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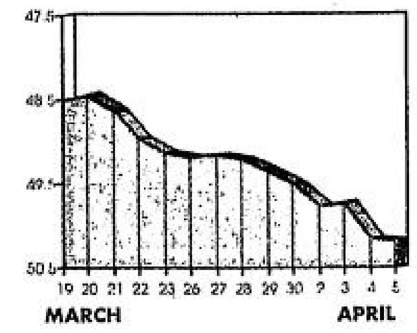


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P50.175 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
April 5, 2001

¥124.17/20 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 124.17/20 as of 5 p.m., April 5, 2001

GOLD:$259.10/259.60
per ounce Hong Kong,
April 4, 2001

STOCK MARKET

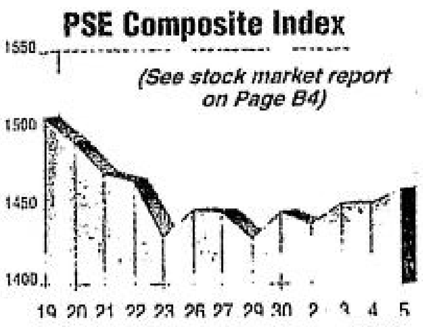
Stocks up lightly

STOCKS closed marginally higher yesterday with trading volume rising slowly as foreign and local institutional investors picked up bargain blue chips led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Traders said some in-

STOCKS/ B4

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Inflation steady at 6.7%; BSP keeps rates unchanged

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ANNUAL inflation rate in March stood at an expected 6.7 percent, but the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the number was not low enough to cut overnight interest rates.

Analysts said one factor mitigating against a rate cut was the weak peso, but added that the inflation number would leave room for the central bank to follow suit if the US Federal Reserve lowered its policy rates further.

The National Statistics Office said inflation remained flat from February's 6.7 percent, with price rises in services, housing, repairs, utilities and fuel being counter-balanced by a slowdown in food, beverage and tobacco price increases.

This was in line with the expectations of Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas who said further increases in crude prices have been tempered by favorable prices in the world market. He added that the slowdown in interest rates has allowed consumer prices to stabilize.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura reiterated after the March inflation data was announced that the bank would not lower its key overnight rates for now.

Speaking to Reuters by phone, Buenaventura said the number was "well within (the bank's expected) range," adding "we will not do anything" to overnight rates at the policy-making Monetary Board meeting later yesterday.

He later confirmed the board kept rates unchanged.

The central bank's overnight borrowing rate is currently at 10 percent while the overnight lending is at 12.25 percent.

The central bank has cut interest rates by 500 basis points since December after raising them by 400 basis points in October to defend the peso when it came under attack following allegations of corruption against then President Joseph Estrada.

Buenaventura has previously said rates would be changed only if the US Federal Reserve cut its policy rates further or if March inflation came outside the expected range of 6.5 to 7.0 percent.

Analysts said the March inflation was benign, especially since month-on-month inflation was only 0.1 percent, and that there was room for the central bank to cut rates if the Fed did so.

"It is encouraging that inflation pressures have eased," said Dave Cohen, chief macroeconomic forecaster for S&P/MMS in Singapore. "There were higher increases experienced at the end of last year."

But he added: "Recently we see renewed pressure in the peso in conjunction with regional currencies. That remains a potential source for renewed inflation, that will restrain the central bank when it considers rate cuts."

The peso slipped below 50 to the dollar on Wednesday and closed yesterday at 50.175. It was the lowest since it fell to a historic low of 55.75 in January at the height of the political crisis, which resulted in the ouster of Estrada.

Buenaventura said the exchange rate would be volatile for the next two or three months but added the peso should remain around current ranges. He said it was unlikely to fall to 52.

INFLATION/ B4

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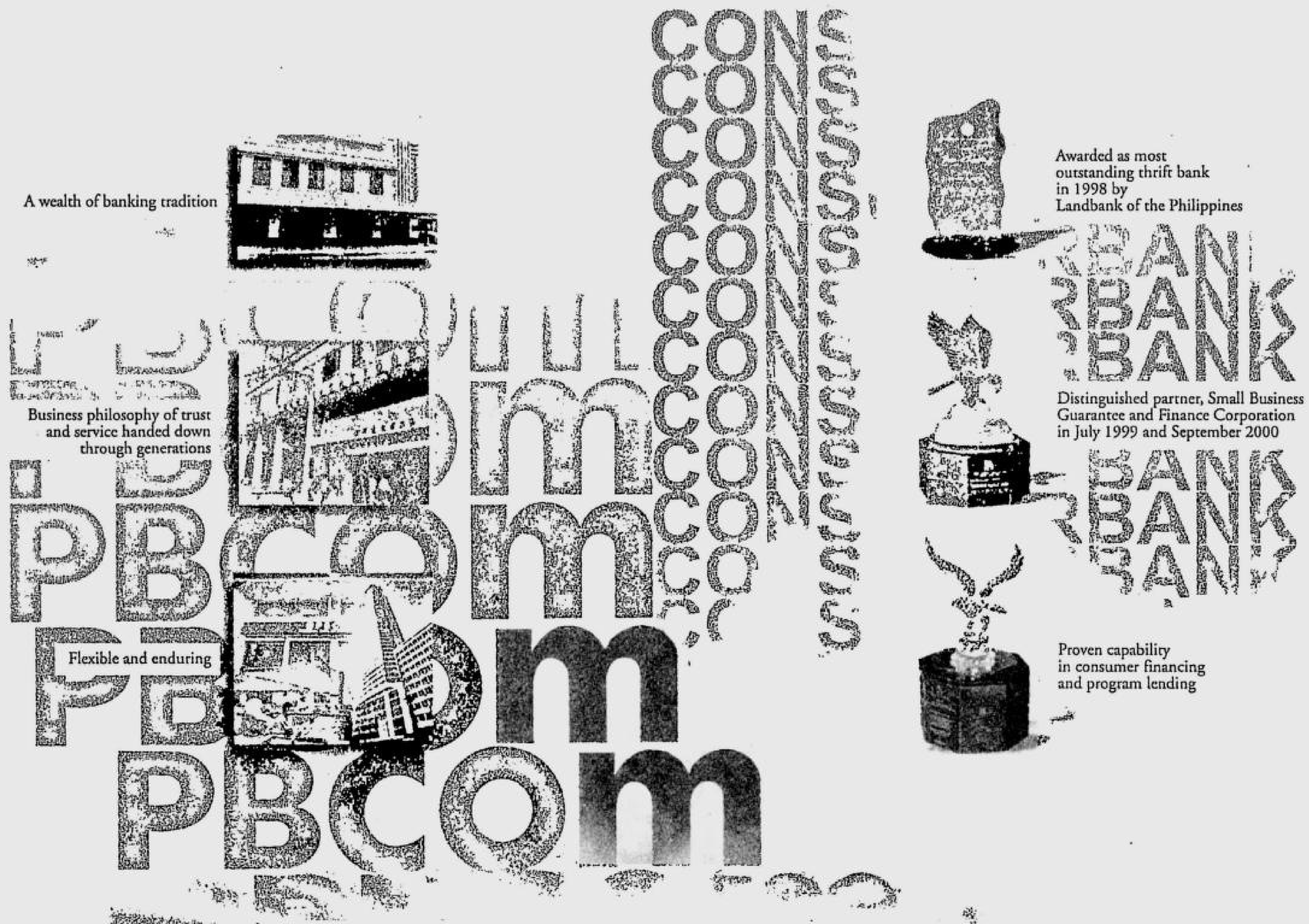

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AY's last hurrah

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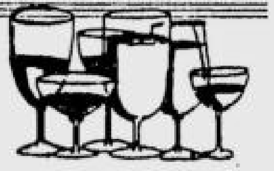


By Victor C. Agustin

SO the rumors are true; taipan Alfonso Yuchengco is indeed interested in the Washington post to cap his ambassadorial career.

Columnist Carmen Pedrosa confirmed what has been rumored all along when she disclosed that former Ambassador to the United States Emmanuel Pelaez had asked her to support the high-level, but hitherto quiet lobbying for AY.

Given his senior years, AY, who had been ambassador to Japan and China and now GMA's special envoy to Japan, China and South Korea, wants the US posting as a "last hurrah."

The problem is, no less than the President herself has reportedly committed the position to Albert del Rosario, president and builder of the First Pacific Plaza Towers Condominium. And besides, Del Rosario's name has already been pre-cleared with Washington, according to the grapevine.

(One of the first, behind-the-scenes contribution of the soft-spoken, US-educated Del Rosario during the early Macapagal-Arroyo days was to patch up that now public phone call of President Bush to give his support to GMA.)

What has further complicated the scenario for Del Rosario, in addition to the sudden pro-Yuchengco lobby, is that this early an anti-Del Rosario "white paper" had already been researched and submitted by, hmmm, a most unusual suspect to the Commission on Appointments.

For AY, the Yuchengco name and fortune are decidedly in his advantage. Besides, one of his daughters, Lisa, is a community leader in San Francisco and the Bay Area, being the publisher of Filipinas, a feel-good monthly magazine for US Pinoys.

But that does not sometimes work for the old man's advantage, considering that Lisa, typical of all strong-headed Yuchengco daughters, published the famous Rosemarie Arenas series in time for President Ramos' US visit.

We understand that the father had to buy out all copies of the offending issue just to prevent what could have been a national and personal embarrassment. But we are digressing.

Yuchengco's advance age may work against the taipan, considering that he is now 78, and may no longer take the rigors of a continent-wide assignment and endless meetings and fiestas with the factional US-Filipino communities.

Ironically, AY's physical handicap does not necessarily translate to an advantage for Del Rosario, considering that Del Rosario himself is still undergoing therapy for a botched knee-operation that nearly cost his life.

Strangely, instead of being penalized by his medical superiors, the *balikbayan* surgeon who performed it was even promoted to department head of the Makati Medical Center. But that again is another story.

Comings, goings

A SPOKESMAN for Alfonso Yuchengco said the taipan was still in China as of Wednesday, in reaction to an item here claiming that AY and PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan were supposed to meet that same day over the taipan's alleged residual claims on the telephone company.

The latest word from the grapevine is that the taipan was scheduled to arrive last night or, at the very latest, this weekend.

Neither side, interestingly, is denying the reported meeting.

Pangilinan, by the way, is also due to undergo a corrective surgery any time now; like Del Rosario, MVP is also suffering from bad knee, due to vigorous squash playing.

With the Makati Med disaster fresh in his mind, Pangilinan has opted to be operated on in Hong Kong instead.

Signs of the times

- THE pre-war South Syquia Apartments in Malate, a favorite of artists and journalists because of its high-ceilings, proximity to the Remedios Circle, and reasonable rents (P19,000/month for a standard two-bedroom flat, no parking slot) currently has six vacancies, a record unheard of since the 1983-84 crisis.
- A NEWSPAPER whose owner is seeking an elective position has not paid its staffers their end-March salaries.
- THE first 16 issues of the Pinoy Times Special Edition chronicling the fight against and the downfall of you-know-who are now available in one softbound edition for P180/copy.

Heard through the grapevine

BARRING last-minute hitches, Ramos Presidential Legal Counsel Antonio Carpio will be writing a once-a-week column for the INQUIRER.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

DISCLOSURES

LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas has ordered the compulsory arbitration of the labor dispute at the refinery of **Petron Corp.** in Bataan. This order strictly enjoins any strike or lockout.

* * *

JG Summit confirmed it was participating in the bidding for a stake in Equitable-PCI Bank.

* * *

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange said it was considering the suspension of trading of **Fil-Estate Land Inc.** shares on April 16 unless the company submits the structured reportorial requirements of the exchange before that date. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Gas pipeline to urban centers eyed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BONIFACIO Gas Corp., a joint venture between Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., is gearing up to provide piped-in gas to key urban centers in the country.

Bonifacio Gas has started operations for its underground pipeline network at the Fort Bonifacio Global City with Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City, likely to be its second target of operations.

While Shell would initially tap its tank farms to supply the liquefied petroleum gas for Global City, the pipeline would eventually get its gas supply from the Malampaya gas field run by the Shell and Lopez group.

The company would serve the piped-in gas requirement of establishments in Global City, specifically residents of Pacific Plaza Towers and tenants at the Fort Entertainment Center. BGC general manager Eric Piedad said the company was currently looking at inking similar contracts in other highly developed urban centers in other parts of the country.

The system would do away with the pick-up or delivery of individual LPG tanks as it would be available on demand much like electrical and water supply system.

Piedad expressed optimism that Filipinos would embrace the piped gas system because it is safe, economical, efficient and environmentally sound.

It is safer because it eliminates potential health and fire hazards from improper handling of gas cylinders. It is more cost-effective because users only pay for what they consume based on individual meters.

He said Bonifacio Gas' services were comparable to those used in the United States, Great Britain, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan.

This will be the first piped gas operation in the country since Manila Gas shut down its operations in the 1990s due to financial difficulties. The discovery of significant gas reserves in Malampaya has re-ignited interest in the industry.

Shell Philippines Exploration BV, developer of the gas prospect, is in talks with two more prospective buyers of Malampaya's natural gas in a bid to expand its market.

Spex managing director David J. Greer said the prospective natural gas buyers were Magellan Utilities Development Corp. and San Pascual Cogeneration Co.

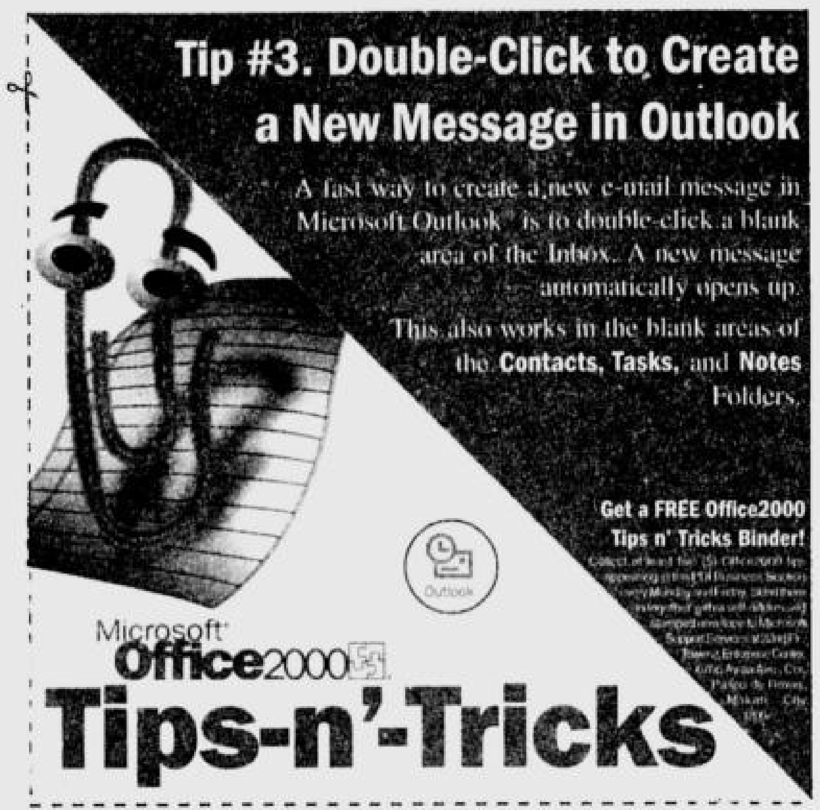
Malampaya, situated 50 kilometers northwest off Palawan, has a guaranteed natural gas reserve of 2.6 trillion cubic feet in more than 20 years.

To be harnessed in October this year, the natural gas from Malampaya will be used primarily to fuel three power generation plants in Luzon. These are the 1,000-megawatt Sta. Rita plant, the 500-mw San Lorenzo and the 1,200-mw Ilijan generators, all in Batangas.

The first two are owned by the Lopezes' First Gas Holdings Corp. while Ilijan is owned by a consortium led by Korean Electric Power Corp.

Greer said the Malampaya field's output could accommodate markets other than the three Luzon-based power plants.

The Malampaya consortium consists of Spex, Texaco Philippines and Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Co.



Tip #3. Double-Click to Create a New Message in Outlook

A fast way to create a new e-mail message in Microsoft Outlook is to double-click a blank area of the Inbox. A new message automatically opens up.

This also works in the blank areas of the **Contacts, Tasks,** and **Notes** Folders.

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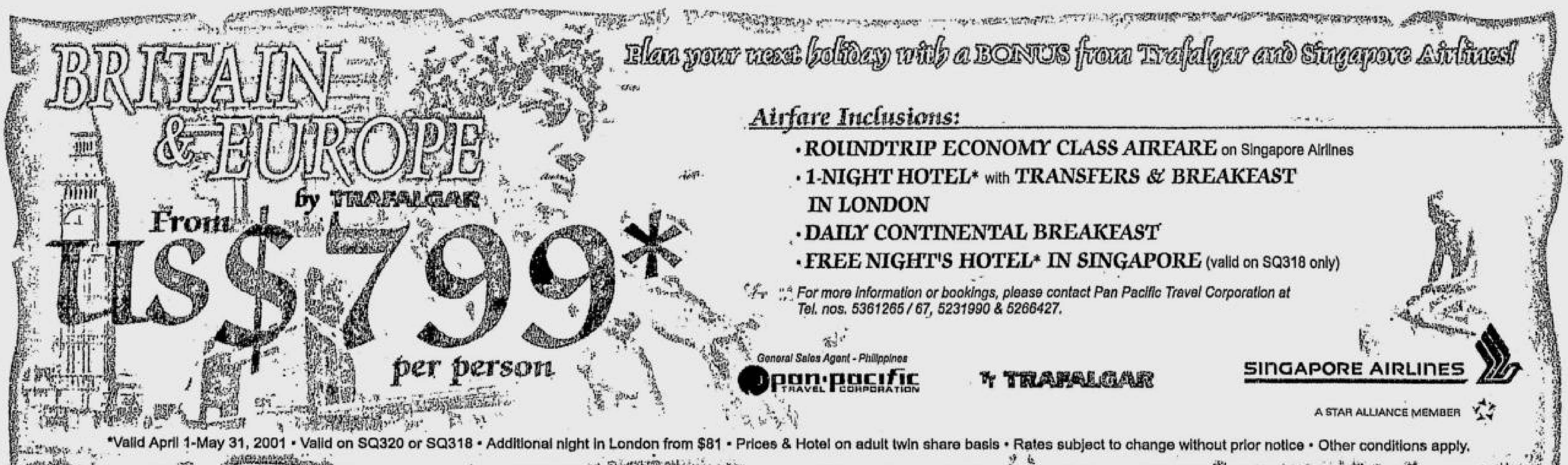

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RISING BAD LOANS

UCPB posts ₱280M in losses

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNITED Coconut Planters Bank yesterday said it registered a net loss of about P280 million last year representing a significant drop from the previous year's profit of P1 billion.

UCPB president Lorenzo Tan attributed the poor performance last year to the building up of its non-performing loans to a ratio of about 18 percent of total loans, from 14.7 percent in 1999.

Bank chair Jeronimo Kilayco said UCPB was planning to sell this year about P6 to 7 billion worth of foreclosed assets to improve its finances. Last year, the bank sold about P160 million of its real and other properties owned or acquired (Ropoa).

The bank's NPL is worth about P12 billion. It set aside some P6.5 billion in loan-loss provision to cover for the bad loans last year.

Both officials said the country's ninth largest lender was poised to embark on a P20-billion capital-raising exercise upon the settlement of the coco fund ownership issue.

"We will raise P5 to P20 billion from the capital markets once the ownership issue is resolved," said Tan.

More than 95 percent of UCPB is under sequestration by the Presidential Commission on Good Government. The sequestration has hampered the bank's growth as it could neither raise capital nor engage into mergers and acquisitions, Tan said.

As of the fourth quarter last year, the bank's total assets were placed at P120 billion while deposits stood P87 billion. Of its total deposits, San Miguel Corp. accounts for about P15 billion.

Kilayco said the bank's capital base has remained stagnant since the shares were sequestered in 1986.

UCPB is the first local bank to expand and reclassified as a universal bank.

"Unless we increase our capital, it will be hard to increase our loan portfolio. There is no way we can raise additional capital while the bank is under sequestration," said Kilayco.

The Sandiganbayan ruled in February that shareholders on record could vote on their stake in UCPB. But on the day UCPB was scheduled to hold its first stockholders meeting in 15 years, the Supreme Court issued a restraining order on the Sandiganbayan decision. The Supreme Court is expected to decide on April 17 on who should vote for these shares.

Coke seen to account for 30% of SMC income

SAN Miguel Corp., the country's biggest food and beverage firm, yesterday said it was expecting Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) to account for 30 percent of its revenues this year after it finalizes a deal to acquire the soft drink firm.

San Miguel also said in a statement to the stock exchange that it expected Coke to recapture its previous market share of 80 percent from the current 70 percent.

"The company projects CCBPI to contribute an estimated 30 percent in total revenue for 2001," San Miguel said.

SMC said last month it had signed a definitive agreement with Coca-Cola Co. to jointly acquire Coke Philippines from Coca-Cola Amatil of Australia in a transaction valued at $1.1 billion.

San Miguel will acquire 65 percent of Coke Philippines under the deal, with the remaining 35 percent to be taken up by the Coca-Cola Co.

"This recent acquisition will really add value to San Miguel's operations," Eduardo Cojuangco, San Miguel chair, said in the statement.

Coke Philippines, which ranks as the eighth largest soft drink business worldwide, reported revenue of P28 billion ($560 million) in 2000.

San Miguel reported net sales of P88.7 billion last year, up 17 percent from year-ago levels.

Before San Miguel sold its stake in Coke Philippines in June 1997 to Coca-Cola Amatil, the local soft drink firm enjoyed a market share of 80 percent.

"Given San Miguel's extensive distribution and marketing capabilities, we believe CCBPI can recapture its previous market share of about 80 percent compared to the current 70 percent," Cojuangco said. *Reuters*

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IT SUMMIT IN CEBU

Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas checks out the information technology products of Globe Telecom exhibited during the 1st IT Summit in Cebu. During the summit, Roxas outlined how the government could provide a healthy IT investment environment while Globe Telecom, the summit sponsor, announced its plan to help transform the Queen City of the South into a premiere Philippine investment destination for IT and IT-related industries.

Inflation steady at 6.7% . . .

(From page B1)

"The only factor preventing them from cutting rates is the currency. But since our view is that the Fed would cut again, that will provide scope for (the) central bank to reinstate their easy monetary policy," said Joey Cuyegkeng, an economist at ING Barings in Manila.

Emilio Neri, an economist at Abacus Securities, said the inflation data indicated the political crisis had passed.

"Clearly, the political component has been eliminated," he said. "For December and January, prices were being affected by developments back then.

"It's pretty clear that non-political factors will be determining the inflation trend in the second quarter such as the foreign exchange rate's pass-through-effect on local prices and the performance of the agriculture sector."

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the movement of inflation was expected as the uptrend in oil prices was felt most at the end of 2000. "Oil prices remained high as oil companies are still trying to recover," he said.

Contrary to government expectations that inflation should peak in the first quarter, Mark Securities head of research Manny Cruz said the country has not yet seen a reversal of the upswing in consumer prices. He said consumer prices would likely stay low until the May elections because the government, at present, was still trying to control prices of utility services.

"After the elections, the biggest factor to affect consumer prices will be the peso depreciation. It will be below 7 percent before May but after that, the full effect of inflation will be felt," Cruz said.

The inflation rate for Metro Manila remained at 7.7 percent in March while the rate for areas outside Metro Manila also moved at the same rate in February of 6.3 percent. *With a report from Reuters*

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Stocks

(From page B1)

vestors have started to come back to the market convinced that the new government will be true to its promises, particularly to prosecute erring government officials like former President Joseph Estrada.

The 33-share composite index advanced 8.52 points, or 0.59 percent, to end at 1,460.67 points, also the day's high.

Although the main index posted gains, there were more losers than gainers, 34 to 21. The broader All-Shares Index slid 2.40 points, or 0.33 percent, to 722.37 points.

Turnover jumped to P588.86 million from Wednesday's P317.42 million, higher compared to the average value of trades in the market last March of around P400 million, said Joan Bueno-Eala, fund manager of Bank of the Philippine Islands-Trust.

"We've noticed some activity in the past (few) days . . . It's more political in nature. Perhaps some institutional funds, both foreign and local, are starting . . . to gradually accumulate fairly undervalued blue chips," Bueno-Eala said.

"There is a firm resolve on the part of the present government to make sure lessons in the past are really learned, that erring politicians are indeed brought to court . . . People were doubting that at first."

"Overall, the moves of the administration (of President Macapagal Arroyo) on both economic and political fronts have been very well accepted," said Juan Trinidad, a trader at Vickers Ballas Securities Philippines.

"I myself am cautiously bullish . . . And some funds that have come in are actually paying a premium due to the illiquid nature of the market," he said. *Reuters*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, April 5, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	3,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	86	86	86	86	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69	69.5	525,300
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	630
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	53.5	53.5	51.5	52	95,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	217	217	209	210	161,650
Philippine National Bank	45	46	45	46	5,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.48	102,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1205	1205	1205	1205	2,180
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	910	910	910	960
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	43	44	43	44	13,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	2,100,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	660	660	660	10
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	20,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	695	710	695	710	223,480
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.04	0.041	54,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	43.5	44	43	43	78,400
Manila Electric Co. B	59	59	58	58.5	489,600
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	440,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.98	0.9	0.96	550,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	7,153,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	20,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	5,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	280,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	2,263,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	28,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	12	8,907,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	29.5	30	29.5	30	5,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	95	95	95	95	300
RFM Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	570,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45.5	45.5	45	45.5	30,900
San Miguel Corp. B	49	49.5	49	49.5	2,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	357,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.25	33,600
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	30,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
APC Group Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	660,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.24	2.24	2.1	2.1	10,661,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	220,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	350,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	50,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	400,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	40,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	21.5	22.75	21.5	22.5	141,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Ionics Inc.	10.75	11	10.75	11	10,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.1	2.1	673,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	330,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	1,020,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	920,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	6,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5	5	5	5	6,000
Music Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	239,000
Pryce Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	530,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.25	12.25	155,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	450,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.47	0.48	1,490,000
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	4	4	13,651,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	43.5	44.5	43.5	44.5	301,700
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	120,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	13,500
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	15,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	3,900,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	4,584,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	3,060,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.32	2,380,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.94	1.98	1.94	1.96	5,882,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	400,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	7.1	6.8	7.1	7,109,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	5,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	40,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	90,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,480,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.016	0.014	0.016	20,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	30,000

CURRENCIES

Apr. 5, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.109508	1.000000	49.8800
Japan	Yen	0.008853	0.007979	0.3980
United Kingdom	Pound	1.589482	1.432600	71.4581
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142279	0.128236	6.3964
Switzerland	Franc	0.654038	0.589484	29.4035
Canada	Dollar	0.705794	0.636132	31.7303
Singapore	Dollar	0.611435	0.551086	27.4882
Australia	Dollar	0.543317	0.489692	24.4258
Bahrain	Dinar	2.943150	2.652661	132.3147
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295845	0.266645	13.3003
Brunei	Dollar	0.610458	0.550206	27.4443
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000094	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.024466	0.022051	1.0999
UAE	Dirham	0.302079	0.272264	13.5805
Korea	Won	0.000812	0.000732	0.0365
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.901300	44.9568
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.460827	22.9861
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137402	6.8536
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.408992	20.4005
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065500	3.2671
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022343	1.1145
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000465	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.151588	7.5612
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004496	0.2243
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005417	0.2702
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022343	1.1145
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.144415	57.0834

2 US firms OK $130-M loan to Bangko Sentral

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has raised another $130 million from JP Morgan and Chase Manhattan to settle loans maturing on April 8.

The loan completes the central bank's borrowing requirement this year and BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said it would only go back to the debt market in 2003 since there would be no maturing obligations next year.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the loan deal to be underwritten by the two foreign investment banks was obtained at a lower spread of 2.9 percentage points over the London interbank offered rate (Libor).

BUENAVENTURA

Last month, the BSP also completed a $740-million syndicated loan with 19 banks at a spread of 3.1 percentage points over Libor.

Of the proceeds, $400 million was used to replace dollars the central bank had borrowed from its reserves to pay off loans that matured last Feb. 20.

The new loan with JP Morgan and Chase Manhattan will mature in two and a half years. The earlier borrowing will mature in three years.

Analysts said the rate was reasonable compared to the $200-million loan obtained by the national government last year at 4.2 percentage points over Libor.

Still, the rates of the last two BSP borrowings were way above the central bank's $550-million loan a year ago that was obtained at 1.19 percentage points over Libor.

The BSP's two consecutive borrowings were the first two sovereign deals this year. The national government has yet to tap the debt market as it finances its borrowing requirement through the auction of treasury bonds and bills.

Buenaventura said the commitment of banks to lend to the Philippines was a concrete manifestation of the improved confidence of the international financial community in the Philippine economy.

He pointed out that with the new loan, the debt financing would not make a dent in the country's gross international reserves, which stood at a little over $14 billion.

The BSP explained that the proceeds of the borrowings would be immediately reflected in the GIR.

This year, the central bank wants to raise the dollar reserves to $16 billion from a level of $15.01 billion last year.

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Do's & Don'ts In Labor Only Contracting	Apr. 20	Mandarin Oriental Mla.	9-6 PM
Proactive Labor Relations in Industry	Apr. 20-21	Mandarin Oriental Mla.	9-6 PM
Do's & Don'ts In Labor Only Contracting (Cebu)	Apr. 27	Cebu Int'l. Convention Ctr.	8-12 AM
	Apr. 28	Cebu Int'l. Convention Ctr.	1-5 PM
Profitable Negotiating	May 3-4	Mandarin Oriental Mla.	9-6 PM
Major / Key Account Development	May 11-12	Mandarin Oriental Mla.	9-6 PM

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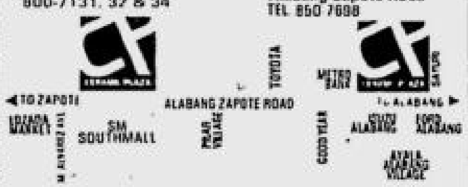
Kindly mail all entries to **P.O. Box 952 Manila, Attention: Procurement Center, Re: Supply of Clinical and Dental Services (Not to be opened except by authorized personnel).** Deadline for submission is **April 20, 2001.**



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CREATE AWARENESS
TAKE ACTION

ASIA-PACIFIC PRESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE 2001

"The Youth and Service Opportunities"

APRIL 6 - 8, 2001 • THE MANILA HOTEL, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager
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ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

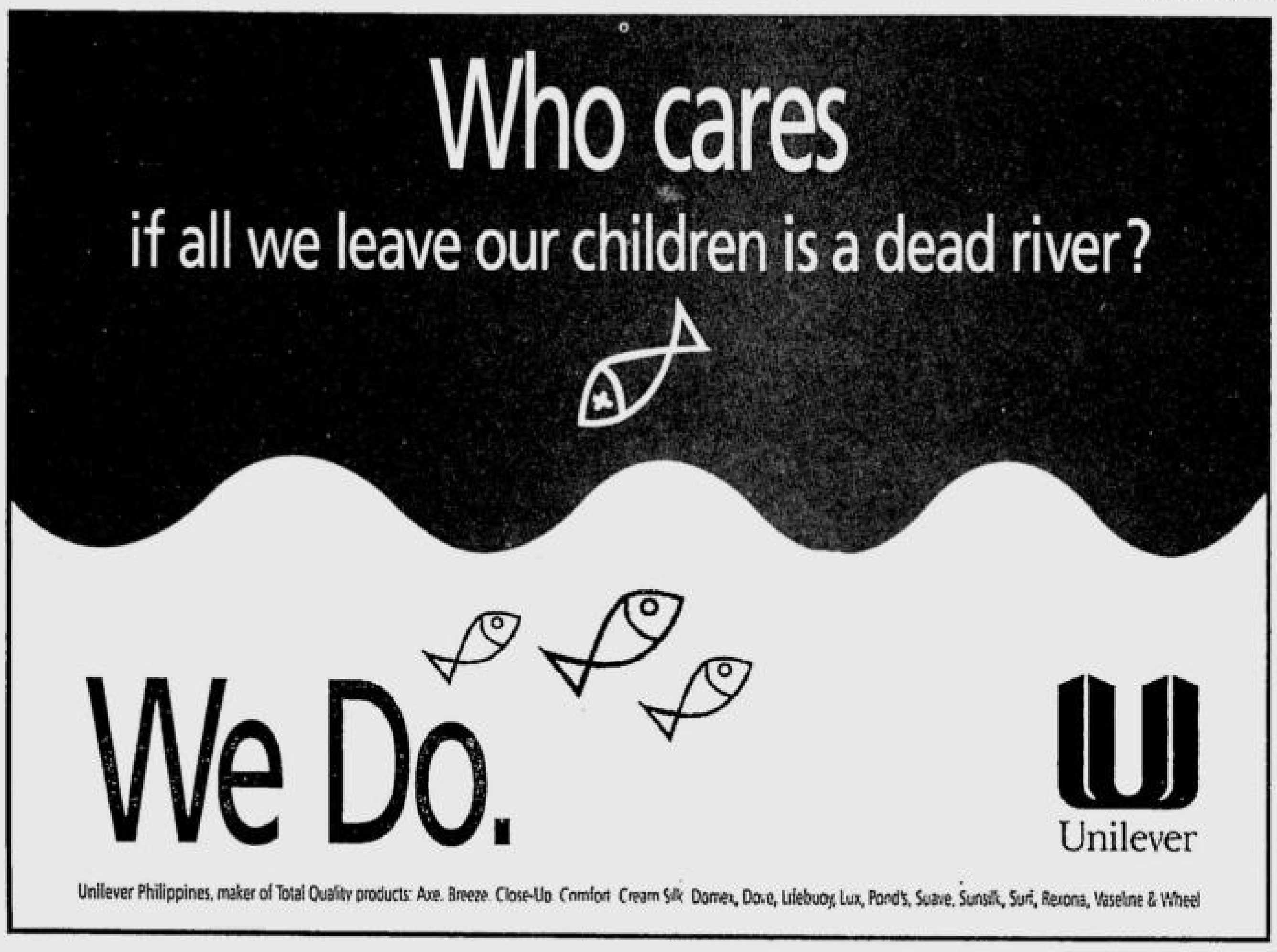
Rotary Presidential Conference opens today

THE ASIA-PACIFIC Presidential Conference 2001 formally begins today at the Manila Hotel with Rotary International President Frank J. Devlyn delivering the keynote address. Rotarians from Asia and the Philippines are expected to attend the Conference which will have among its guests other RI personalities including PRIP Herb Brown, chair of The Rotary Foundation, one of the world-leading providers of humanitarian service

Chaired by PRID Rafael "Paing" Hechanova of the host country, the Conference is one of only five such conferences scheduled this Rotary year. It is principally set and designed by the RI President to give added focus on the present theme "Create Awareness, Take Action." In a previously issued special invitation to Rotarians in the region, President Devlyn specifically defined the goals of the conference as creating awareness and taking action "towards developing new service opportunities and fostering better communications and understanding among Rotarians and nations." He added that while Rotarians are already part of a process that is transform-

RI President Frank and Gloria Rita Devlyn

ROTARY/ B7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MESSAGES

MY WARMEST greetings to Rotary International President Frank J. Devlyn and presidents of all Rotary Clubs in the Asia Pacific region and the Philippines.

It is indeed an honor for our country to be the site of your Asia Pacific Presidential Conference 2001. Manila is where the first Rotary Club in Asia was founded, right in the very venue of your conference today. Your theme, "Youth and Service Opportunities," is most appropriate and is in consonance with our government's thrust to nurture the active participation of civil society in attaining social and economic development.

In this respect, I am glad to share that here in our country, the youth has indeed assumed a pivotal role in creating change and are very much involved in meaningful and constructive socio-civic endeavors. We hope that you will find our experience a good example of how socio-civic organizations can harness the youth's idealism, strength and awareness in the furtherance of your noble cause to uplift the welfare of humanity in general and of the less fortunate in particular.

I hope this partnership will expand the groundwork of cooperation not only among the Rotarians present today, but also in the entire Asia Pacific region and the world.

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

IT'S TRULY amazing that Rotary has grown from only four individuals in 1905 to more than one million members in 2001. As we look to our past and to the future, we must continually strive to attract new members who will offer fresh perspectives and innovative ideas. Without this energizing influence, Rotary will not continue to be a major force in helping humanity throughout the world.

Why do people join Rotary? Thinking back upon my own experience, I have come to the following conclusion. People join Rotary to gain friendships, for the prestige of being a Rotarian, and for an opportunity to network with other professionals in a variety of different fields. Then, after people join Rotary, something unexpected occurs. You discover that in addition to friendship, prestige, and networking opportunities, Rotary also promotes higher ethical values. This is when the "Magic of Rotary" truly occurs.

Rotarians discover that they can do something important for the world around them by working together, community service. Then, they discover that they can help communities in far away places, and make a difference in the lives of people all over the world. This is when the real transformation occurs, the birth of International Service. It is difficult to explain how it happens, the International transformation, but that is the "Magic of Rotary."

As the president of Rotary International for the year 2000-2001, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the important projects and initiatives with which Rotary is involved in this year. One of our most important programs is Rotary's Polio Plus program. In our ongoing battle to eradicate polio, we have partnered with the WHO, Unicef, the Centers for Disease Control, and Ministries of Health worldwide. It is an endeavor of which we are most proud. On our 100th anniversary in 2005, we hope that Rotary can celebrate with the world in the announcement that polio has been eradicated.

Another program, which as an eye care professional myself I am very concerned with, is Rotary's efforts for avoidable blindness. This program helps the blind and disadvantaged all over the world whose sight can be restored through the implantation of an inter-ocular lens. I am placing special emphasis on projects in India where for every thousand dollars we raise, thirty people with cataracts can have their sight restored. So far, this program has made an amazing difference in the lives of people who were given the gift of sight through the efforts of Rotarians throughout the world.

Today, Rotary is involved with so many efforts that bring humanitarian service to the people of the world and truly exemplify our motto of "Service Above Self." Rotary's efforts with, for example, promoting literacy, helping disadvantaged children, and providing wheelchairs to the disabled, to name a few, have made a real difference in people's lives and has had a positive impact on the world in which we live.

So let us continue our efforts at the Asia Pacific Presidential Conference 2001 in Manila to Create Awareness and Take Action in our clubs, in our community, in our world. For information on my plans for 2000-2001 and ideas on how we can Create Awareness and Take Action, I suggest you visit my website www.frankdevlyn.org or, for more information about Rotary, visit www.rotary.org.

FRANK J. DEVLYN
President
Rotary International

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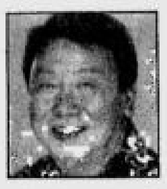
MESSAGES



ROTARY has always been a dynamic partner of the City of Manila. Rotary has contributed to the construction and remodeling of plazas and playgrounds in Manila for the enjoyment of the city populace, particularly the children. It has been active in providing educational and livelihood services to Manilans, in partnership with the government of the City of Manila.

It is, therefore, so apropos that the first Presidential Conference to be held in the Philippines should have Manila as its venue. This is a signal honor for the city of Manila and the Manila Rotarians.

On the occasion, therefore, of the Asia Pacific Presidential Conference 2001, I would like, first of all, to welcome RI President Frank Devlyn and the other Rotary International officials who will be joining him in this conference. I would also like to wish the Asia Pacific Presidential Conference 2001, particularly the Rotarians participating in this conference, success in their deliberation, especially in their effort to provide service to all those who are in need of help—the disabled, the sick, the street children, and all those who have less in life. In the tradition of hospitality for which Manila is noted, it is with great pleasure and honor that I hand over the key to the City of Manila to RI President Frank Devlyn and to all those who are attending the Asia Pacific Presidential Conference 2001. *Mabuhay!*

JOSE L. ATIENZA JR.
Mayor, City of Manila

FELLOW ROTARIANS,

Philippine Rotary is honored and privileged to host this Asia Pacific Presidential Conference of Rotary International.

It is the only one in the region and only one of five in the world this Rotary Year where discussions and information exchange are scheduled in such interests of the community as the youth and service opportunities in Rotary, avoidable blindness, jobs for the disabled, micro credit, population and development and alleviation of poverty.

The conference will also focus on how Rotarians and Rotary clubs can Create Awareness and Take Action in order to show that Rotary cares for the community as serving mankind is our prime concern.

We hope you will find the conference meaningful and enjoyable. Best wishes.

RAFAEL G. HECHANOVA
Conference Chairman

Rotary Presidential . . .

(From page B6)

ing the lives of many ordinary people in the region "the people of Southeast Asia still face many challenges, such as illiteracy and the lack of resources to reduce poverty. In Manila, we can examine such issues of mutual concern and take proactive measures to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged people throughout the region." President Devlyn is scheduled to deliver two major addresses that will open the Conference today and end it on April 8, Sunday.

The Conference Program (see box) will cover such wide-ranging subjects as effective membership development and retention and community service. Similarly, the Conference will also celebrate the success of the polio eradication campaign for which Rotary has been in the vanguard spending millions of dollars to finally vanish the scourge which has afflicted countless children all over the world.

In keeping touch with modern communication, the event will also feature teleconference to bring together the Philippines with Hong Kong, where a District Conference is currently being held, in a discussion of matters that relate to Rotary.

At the Manila Hotel's Millennium Hall, task force booths and a bazaar that highlights the service projects and community activities of Rotary Clubs in the Philippines will be on exhibit for the duration of the conference. Of special significance is the Rotary Community Corps, a self-help project spearheaded by Rotary that impacts directly on the livelihoods of people in need.

Timed with the opening of the conference is the launching of a commemorative book to mark the historical confab. Edited by Past District Governor Herman Gamboa, the book is a compendium of the varied activities of Rotary in the Philippines. It also contains a brief history of the Rotary movement in the country and dissertations on subjects of key interests like Avoidable Blindness, Jobs for the Disabled, Micro-Credit, and others.

Currently, there is estimated more than a million Rotarians worldwide scattered over 29,000 Rotary Clubs in 63 countries.

Conference Chair Paing Hechanova took the occasion to thank the following members of his committee who have labored long and hard to ensure the success of the affairs: Vice Chair Jocelyn I. Bolante, Conference Committee member Daniel T. Yu, and members of the Host Committee and Action Group Leaders—Cesar J. Bautista, Ruben Henson, Herman Gamboa, Nita Honorio, Paul Honorio, Mely C. Hechanova, JL Morales, Mario R. Nery, Frankie S. Roman, Jun Perez, Romy del Rosario, Ernie Salas, Melito Salazar, Antonio Tambunting Jr., Sonny Ventura, Rody Zamora, Rosie Go, Nanette Segovia, and Nona Ricafort.

The other Presidential Conferences that have been scheduled this Rotary year will take place in Mexico City; Miami, Florida, USA; Capetown, South Africa; and Vienna, Austria.

PROGRAM

April 6, Friday

0700	Golf Tournament Manila Gold and Country Club, Makati, Metro Manila
0900	Registration
1430	Conference Leaders Meeting, Roma Salon Room
1600	Opening ceremonies and First Plenary Session, Fiesta Pavilion
1610	Keynote Speech – President Frank J. Devlyn
1710	Open Forum
1730	Adjournment
1730-1930	President Frank and Spouse Gloria Rita Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for formal opening of 1. Club exhibits of community projects and task force booths, Millennium Hall 2. Easter Bazaar, Mabuhay Plaza Hall
1900-1915	Rotary Fellowship Hour Manila Hotel, Centennial Hall
1930-2230	Welcome dinner and awards night Fiesta Pavilion

April 7, Saturday

0800	Registration
0830	2nd Plenary Session Create Awareness, Take Action; "Youth and Service Opportunities" Fiesta Pavilion Call to Order
0830-0850	Symposium – Three young persons between 28-40 years of age will talk on their perception of Rotary
0850-0930	Reaction Panel of Rotary leaders
0930	Open Forum
1000	Adjournment
1015-1130	Simultaneous Workshop Discussions (coffee will be served in the workshop rooms) Group 1 – Developing Communities through Micro Credit Financing, Centennial Hall B Group 2 – Recruiting Quality and Younger Members, Fiesta Pavilion Group 3 – Developing Rotary in Largely Islamic Countries, Centennial Hall C Group 4 – Building Rotary's Image through Advocacy and Public Relations, Roma Salon Group 5 – Literacy and Creating Opportunities for Girls, Centennial Hall A
1015-1130	Youth Interaction with President Frank J. Devlyn, Sampaguita Hall • Questions from Youth Leaders • Pres. Frank Devlyn's Comments • Summary of Action
1130-1215	Kapihan on the Impact of Council on Legislation Proposals to the Future of Rotary, Fiesta Pavilion
1220-1345	Fellowship Luncheon, Fiesta Pavilion
1345-1445	Teleconference with Rotarians – Pres. Frank J. Devlyn Fiesta Pavilion (Roundtable set up)
1500-1630	3rd Plenary Session – Create Awareness, Take Action; Fiesta Pavilion
1630-1730	4th Plenary Session Round Table Discussions on what new programs or suggested modification to existing programs that "The Rotary Foundation can do concerning Youth and Service Opportunities"
1730	Recap of the Day – PDG Jocelyn I. Bolante, vice chair, conference committee
1730-1930	Gala Dinner and Ball, Fiesta Pavilion Guest of Honor and Speaker – Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

April 8, Sunday

0730-0830	Breakfast with TRF Major Donor Update on recent Trustee decisions
0900-1100	5th Plenary Session – The Rotary Foundation, Fiesta Pavilion
1100-1125	Coffee Break
1130-1245	Closing Plenary Session, Fiesta Pavilion Closing Remarks – Pres. Frank J. Devlyn Open Forum – Pres. Frank J. Devlyn TRF Representative Kenneth W. Collins
1215	Presentation of Gifts to Guest of Honor Presentation of Conference Committee Presentation of Host Organizing Action Group Leaders Closing Remarks and Recap of the Day Rafael G. Hechanova, chairman, Conference Committee Conference Closing Feature
1245	Adjournment
1300	Fellowship Luncheon, Fiesta Pavilion *Note:* 1. The Clubs Exhibit of Community Projects will be open Friday 5:30-8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m.-11 a.m. 2. The Task Force booths will be open Friday 5:30-8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. 3. The Easter Bazaar will be open Friday 5:30-8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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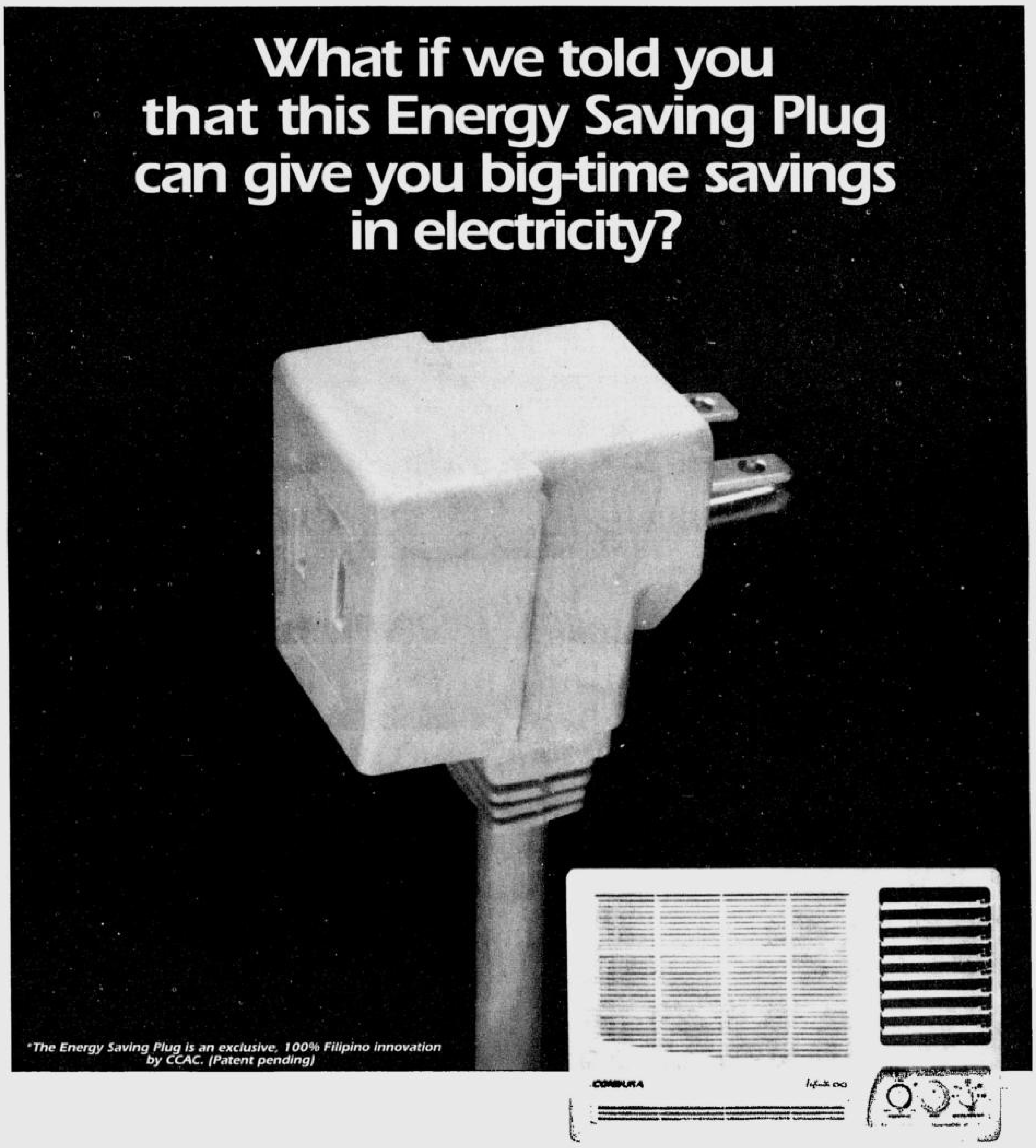

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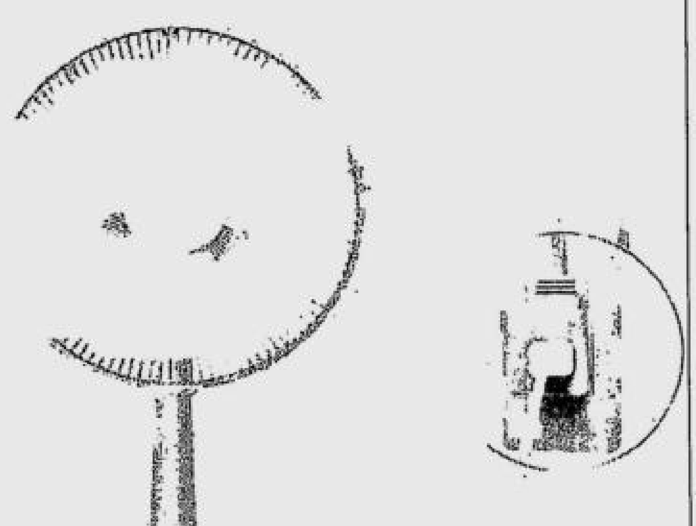

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Balance of payments slips to $512-M deficit

By Clarissa S. Batino

POLITICAL uncertainties battered the country's balance of payments last year, pulling it down to a deficit from a healthy surplus in 1999.

Documents released yesterday by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the Philippines' balance of payments slipped to a $512-million deficit as of end-December 2000 from a $3.586-billion surplus as of end-December 1999.

A country's balance of payments refers to a systematic record of all economic transactions between residents of that country and those of other countries.

As a whole, there can be no surplus or deficit in a country's balance of payments—as distinguished from its balance of trade—because every payment must have its offsetting receipt.

The balance of payments of the Philippines, for example, records the various ways in which the local currency—the peso—is made available to foreigners through Philippine purchases of foreign goods, expenditures of Filipino tourists abroad, donations, loans, etc. These expenditures are shown on the debit side of the balance. The receipts side indicates the various uses to which foreigners put the pesos they receive, such as purchases of Philippine goods, interest on Philippine loans, etc. If foreigners do not spend all the local currency made available to them, the balance of payments will show on the credit side an increase of foreign-held peso balances, foreign purchases of Philippines securities, gold exports from the Philippines, or some similar item.

The central bank reported that the Philippines' balance of payments slipped to a deficit as financial accounts tumbled to negative $6.872 billion from $1.808 billion.

This meant more money left the Philippines despite an 11-percent improvement in foreign direct investments to $1.584 billion.

Analysts said the country's balance of payments worsened as political uncertainties last year forced residents and investors here to convert their peso-holdings into dollars and move them to accounts abroad.

The Estrada administration was wracked last year by allegations that then President Joseph Estrada received billions worth of illegal gambling payoffs. The scandal led to a Senate impeachment trial that culminated into Estrada's ouster through a peaceful civilian revolt in January this year.

A senior BSP official said he expected the country's balance of payments to improve this year to a surplus of $100 million "largely because of improved sentiment, which would tame the deficit, if not completely turn around the numbers on financial accounts."

The BSP earlier issued a circular tightening reportorial requirements that offshore banking units must comply with to plug loopholes in the computation of the country's balance of payments.

GMA says UPS hub in RP to spur Asean integration

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is confident that United Parcel Service's $300-million regional hub in the Philippines will spur greater integration between the economies in the region.

In her speech during the signing of the letter of intent between the government and UPS, the President said advances in international transport logistics and increased economic activity from this rapid integration has given Asean the competitive advantage as a production base for the world market.

She said the industry generated $50 billion in import- and export-related economic activities that support 350,000 employees and represent 6.5 percent of the cumulative gross domestic product of all Asean member economies.

She said improving access to resources and markets would help narrow the gap across nations and within communities with the creation of new jobs, increased productivity, improved supply chain management for producers, technological development and increased competitiveness.

The UPS project opened up opportunities for local industries to develop and grow in a competitive framework, she added.

UPS, the world's largest express carrier and package delivery company, is investing $300 million in Clark International Airport to build its Asian gateway in the Philippines. UPS is dedicating at least 10 daily flights for the initial year of the Clark gateway.

It is the second major courier to set up a hub in the Philippines. Federal Express Corp. has been operating its regional hub at the Subic naval base since 1997 and it has expressed interest in extending its lease contract up to 2013.

Just like Fedex, UPS chose the Philippines because of its strategic location in the region—it is 1.5 hours from Hong Kong, two hours from Taiwan and four hours from Singapore, Japan and South Korea. The proposed link-up between Clark and Subic is also expected to boost traffic in these areas.

Disrespect for the career service

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

DID the GMA leadership pass the test of respect for the career service in the first three months of its term?

If the GMA administration is truly for government stability and basic respect for the security of tenure of career executives and personnel, will Civil Service Chair Karina David please explain to the civil society and to the Filipinos, in general, why is Ramon Ike V. Señeres of the National Computer Center being eased out of his post unceremoniously, without just cause and due process? A brilliant professional with three eligibilities—career executive service officer, career service executive and a career foreign service officer—is being replaced without the courtesy of a prior notice. Nobody talked to him. He just saw the appointment of his successor. Just like that.

If this is the way career executives are being treated in this government, how can this administration acquire moral ascendancy over the deposed regime? Señeres was not a political appointee but a career one assigned to the delicate position of director general of the National Computer Center with the rank of undersecretary. Ex-officio, he is also a member of the DOST management committee. His position is not vacant. And yet, the President was made to sign an appointment to his position. What is this? Is this GMA's cordon sanitaire's way of sabotaging the good President?

A man of great credentials

Señeres used to be the director of science and technology at the DFA and a former special assistant to the secretary of foreign affairs. He was the program manager of Tokten (Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals). He was a commissioner of the Presidential Y2K Commission. He worked as information attaché at the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC, where he was concurrently the bureau chief of the Philippine News Agency.

Before his Washington post, Señeres worked in the Ministry of Human Settlements, where he held positions as senior fellow and public affairs consultant at the University of Life, senior marketing consultant at the National Livelihood Program Secretariat and AVP and group product manager at BLISS Marketing Corp. Señeres had brilliant academic records as a former American field service scholar in Illinois, among others.

The Willy Wong Syndrome

Undersecretary Señeres is a crusader for reforms. In the course of his crusade, he antagonized personnel in the National Computer Center. The employees staged a picket and a strike that could only be deemed illegal based on the prevailing doctrine in Esber vs Civil Service Commissioner. It appears that, if this was the case, the fate of Willy Wong is duplicated in Señeres. But since Wong fought back, the government made him the head of either Meco or SBMA. Would they appease Nick Tiongson of MTRCB also if his protest should escalate?

If the Willy Wong syndrome is now the fashion of this government, then why is there no action against Secretary Dick Gordon, who is being besieged by pickets in the DOT? And why is there no similar action against Secretary Raul Roco, who is facing a union protest in DECS? Is it because Señeres is not a Cabinet member? We should say that with more reasons should security of tenure be upheld for the career service. For Señeres is NOT a political appointee. Is not his only fault the fact that he was appointed by ousted President Erap. But even Davide was appointed as Chief Justice by Estrada. Even Karina David was also an Erap appointee.

Respect for careerism

There will be tumults in government once the career service is going to be destabilized. The moment the President and her cordon sanitaire start to destroy the job security of the corps of professionals in government, what is currently happening in the military will conflagrate in the civil government. Politics and not merit will command the priority in personnel hirings and firings.

There is always a proper way to introduce changes without unduly hurting people and careers. Pat Sto. Tomas, in her own silent but effective way, has changed the DOLE Undersecretary for Labor Relations, the NCMB, POEA and OWWA administrators but she is not getting any serious opposition because she knows how to manage change without courting a revolution. Pat has the reputation of managing organizational changes without sacrificing respect for careerism. They should learn from Pat and become more effective.

Respect for people

You don't have to be Pat Sto. Tomas however to know the basic human sensitivities. The way Ike Señeres was treated shabbily in the NCC is the best argument that successful corporate executives should not risk their career in government. It is the best reason to avoid a government appointment. For Ike was a successful executive of San Miguel Corp. before he was brought into public service. Now, Ike is a very frustrated man. He offered the best years of his life to serve the people. After all his sterling performance, he was replaced without just cause and without due process.

If the lowest janitor or messenger is protected by the Constitution and the Labor Code on his security of tenure and humane conditions of work, why can't they be a little humane to a brilliant career executive who served the government for years? If Joseph Estrada deserved his ouster for abandoning his post, why should Señeres be replaced when, until this very moment, he was in NCC doing his job well?

Will somebody of this government stand up to defend this latest assault against job security and the Philippine career executive service? Civil Service Chair Karina David, who was a victim of easing out prior to the ouster of the deposed President, should know how it feels to be subjected to such a grossly unjust treatment. We wonder what she'll say to this injustice.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

Nextel expanding network coverage

NEXTEL Communications Philippines Inc. recently announced an aggressive coverage expansion and improvement program aimed at further strengthening its presence in key business and industrial centers in the country.

Nextel chair Antonio Urera said the company has been putting up more cell sites in Metro Manila and several provinces in Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog which will open new coverage areas.

Among its most important new areas of coverage are the Subic Bay Special Economic Zone and Olongapo City.

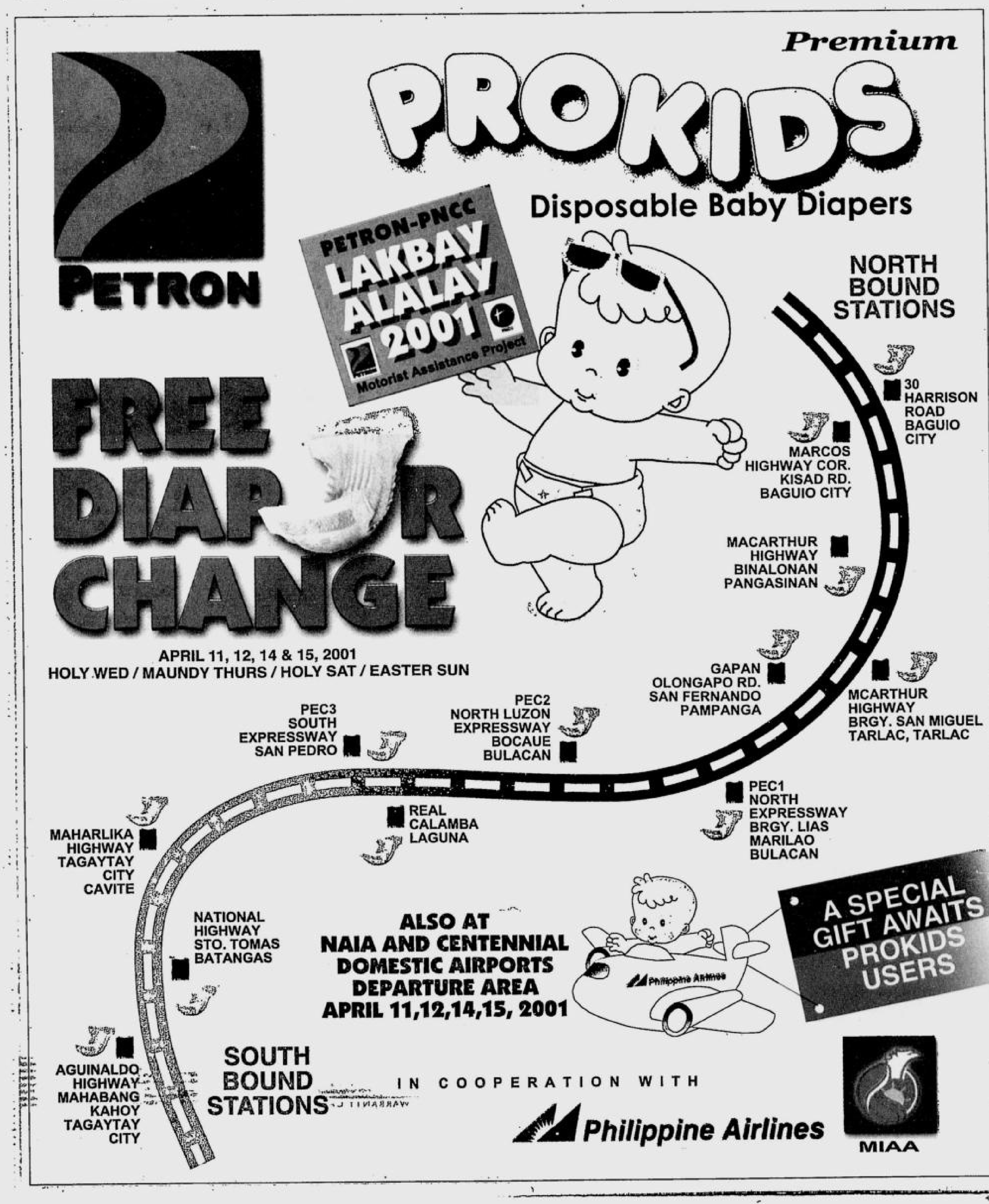
Close to 50 percent of the additional cell sites will be put up in Metro Manila to further improve Nextel's service in the area.

The multimillion-peso program is in response to the growing demand for Nextel's integrated communication services particularly in high business growth areas, Urera added. He said the company would continue to focus on places with significant volumes of commercial transactions, as well as special economic zones and industrial estates.

These are Sta. Rosa, Cabuyao, Calamba, Biñan, San Pablo and San Pedro in Laguna; Sto. Tomas, Batangas City, Lipa and Malvar in Batangas; Angeles City, Dau, Apalit, Mabalacat, San Fernando and the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga; Dasmariñas, Silang, Imus, Tagaytay City, Rosario, Tanza, Trece Martires and Naic in the Cavite area; new areas in Bulacan will cover Malolos, Baliuag and Meycauayan. Likewise an improvement will be felt in Bocaue.

Urera said the expansion was in preparation to the expected rebound of the economy.

"We expect a significant improvement in the investment atmosphere," he said.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US recession likely in 2001, says study

LOS ANGELES—The US economy faces a 90-percent probability of entering a recession by the end of 2001, a respected economic study released Wednesday predicted.

The country can expect no better than "sluggish growth" through the end of the year, followed by two quarters of negative growth, said the study by economists at the Anderson School at the University of California, Los Angeles.

More frequent reports of bad economic news over the last few months has boosted the likelihood of a US recession in 2001 from the 60 percent cited in the last Anderson Business Forecast.

After this "transition year," the US economy will begin a period of sustainable economic growth in 2002, it predicted.

The "Bush-Clinton expansion," which began in 1991, got a jolt from the Internet-led "New Economy" in 1995. An infusion of capital led to heavy business investment in high-tech equipment and jobs, the survey said.

But even as opportunities became rarer in 2000, the number of entrepreneurs continued to increase until peaking in 2001.

"In the beginning, there was a period of deployment of a new asset," wrote study co-author Edward Leamer. "Then there was an over-harvesting of ideas by the community of venture capitalists and investors."

Leamer said the number of investors will decline for years to come.

The "monetary medicine" of interest rate cuts will not be enough to stop the economy's pain, Leamer wrote.

"Better to stop popping these monetary pills and get on with the adjustment. That will make 2002 come sooner. Sorry, Virginia, there really isn't a Santa Claus. And no Internet Bunny, either," he added.

The dotcom crash, along with a continuing energy crisis, threatens the economy of California, the nation's largest state, the survey said.

The "correction" that started almost exactly one year ago has taught workers they cannot rely on the stock market to increase indefinitely, Leamer said.

"The Internet opportunities seemed so juicy in 1996, but that is all over now. We have to think again about the future in the old fashioned way and save." *AFP*

US stocks undervalued, strategists say

WASHINGTON—A respected Wall Street strategist said Wednesday "nervous" traders pushed stock prices down beyond their fair value, and that share prices were now "notably undervalued."

"We believe the decline in share prices has gone well beyond what fundamentals would suggest," Goldman Sachs strategist Abby Joseph Cohen told business leaders here for a World Economic Forum gathering.

She said the Standard and Poor's 500, one of the main Wall Street indexes, was "notably undervalued" as a result of steep declines in the last year.

"Investors are nervous," she said. "When investors are nervous, that's when opportunities are the best."

Asked by journalists if she had a target level for the index, she declined to answer.

But she said a reason for her optimism was she did not believe the US economy was headed for a prolonged downturn.

"We believe that an intractable recession will not be the outcome" of the current decline, she said.

Other economists speaking at a panel discussion were also optimistic that the United States would avoid a major economic decline.

John Lipsky of JP Morgan Chase said he saw the US economy growing at a pace of about 1.5 percent for this year, with "moderate acceleration" in 2002.

C. Fred Bergsten of the Institute for International Economics said he believed the main factors in the downturn—rising interest rates and a spike in oil prices—"already have been resolved." *AFP*

Scrutiny to spur Japan bad loan cleanup–FSA

TOKYO—Financial Services Agency Minister Hakuo Yanagisawa said yesterday Japan's new economic package would encourage banks' disposal of bad loans by exposing the institutions to heightened public scrutiny.

Japanese banks had already unloaded some bad loans, long blamed for the country's decade-long economic slump, but the new initiatives due out on Friday would force them to make more convincing progress, he told a parliamentary committee.

"What we are asking now is, in addition to the progress already made, to dispose of the remainder within two years," Yanagisawa said.

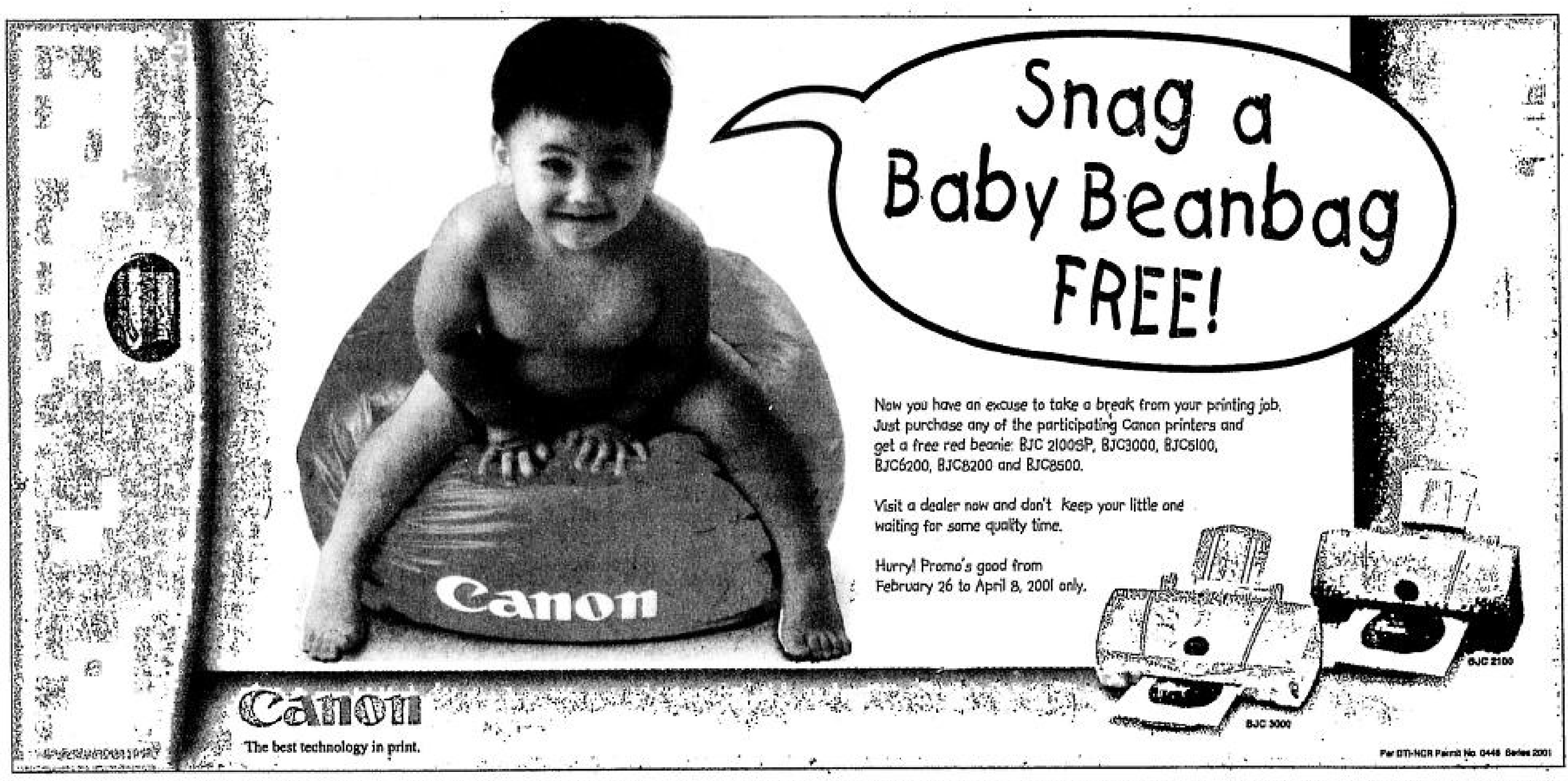
"In order to do that, we will consult individual banks and also publish how much progress the banks are making in removing the bad loans from their balance sheets, thereby putting the banks under the public's supervision," he said.

The economic package was due to be unveiled today, delayed for 48 hours after the government and coalition parties failed to agree on several issues by their initial deadline.

The measures will include steps to persuade banks to dispose of existing bad loans within two years and fresh non-performing loans within three years.

Shortly before Yanagisawa spoke, an FSA official told the parliamentary committee that Japan's 16 main banks had bad loans that would fall under the two-year category totaling some 12.7 trillion yen ($101.3 billion) as of the end of last September.

That was down from 13.9 trillion yen at the end of March 2000 and 17.7 trillion yen at the end of March 1999, he said. *Reuters*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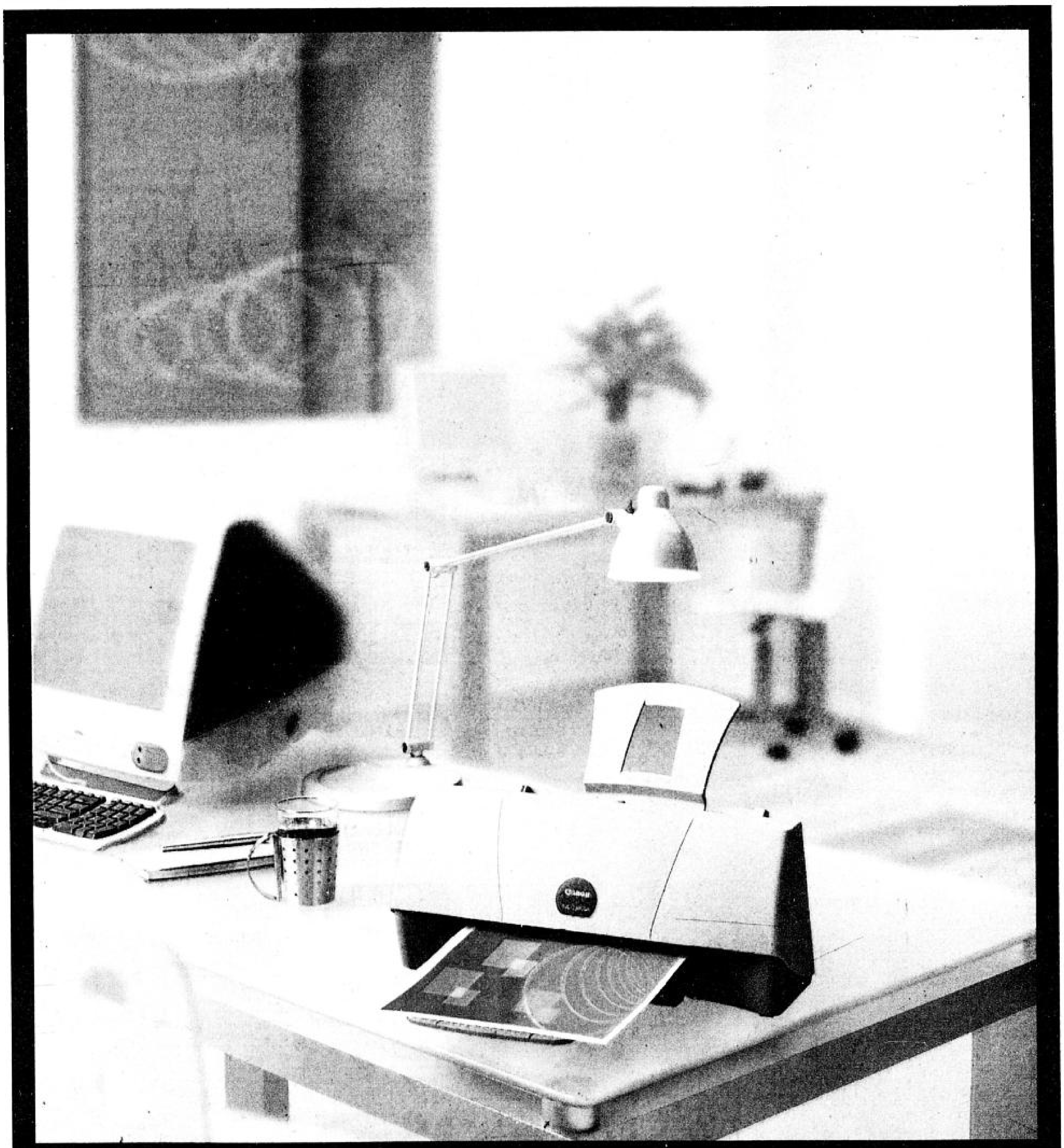
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2BR Burgundy Plaza QC 2.9M 1BR BSA Suites Mktl 4M 927-4517 • 0917-5382461

Makati/Ortigas 300-1500m² Ready to Use • 533-5525

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Fontana Share 200T 9283267 / 141210187

FARM/FISHPEN

21Has Mango Orchard & Resort Bataan • 937-1536

LIPA 2 & 3 Has P120/m² 7343386

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

ERMITA 1BR 5th FLR T3022650

QUEZON CITY

Cubao 2sty 2BR 9982547

Sct de Guia 2BR 2TB 2sty 7124250 /0918-5346069

VNice 1BR Nr Katipunan C-5 727-5728/682-7467

HOUSE

ALABANG

4BR/DEN 5 bath swimming pool, spacious lawn CALL: 879-8543/879-3098 Look for Vangie/Alice #88 A. Roxas Chua Ave., Pacific Village Alabang, Muntinlupa

MUNTINLUPA

817 Gamao St. Ayala Alabang 610sqm S'pool P140T/mo T:8057215

RIZAL

RENT 2 OWN Country Homes Cainta P9T/mo. 656-6491

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Crown Tower Salcedo Vill 2BR 163sqm FF w/Pkg. Mds Rm. P65T/mo. 896-6665

Prinz Plza2 (0917)9324466

MANILA

P5,500/mo.Malate Call 522-6648 / 926-4070

3BR 2TB 13T 4310585

SINGAPORE HUMAN Resource Consultants Pte Ltd
Accreditation No. 55031

A SINGAPORE based company is aggressively seeking dynamic individuals FOR:

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXECUTIVES

Candidates must be female, below 28 years old, degree holder, pleasing personality, fluent in English, with a minimum 2 years experience in retail/sales industry and has a desire to excel.

Successful candidates will be offered a 2-year contract-renewable, attractive salary package, life insurance, performance-based bonus, and career advancement.

Interested applicant may apply personally with their resumé, diploma, T/R, Employment Certificates, Passport and other pertinent documents (all must be prepared in A4 sizes bond paper) starting April 7, 2001, to:

IDEAS SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT CO., INC.
12 Kasing-Kasing Street corner K-9 Street
East Kamias, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 435-1769; 433-4494

This ad is allowed under MC-2
MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER

GOOD SOURCES CORPORATION
MAGNIFICENT ENTERTAINMENT MANAGEMENT INC.
Room 8300 Garden Units, Subic Legend Resort & Casino
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
is in need of the following

COORDINATORS (5)
male/female, 26-45 years old, must be well verse (oral & written) in Mandarin, Cantonese, Fokkien & Teocheow: with experience in any service oriented business min. experience of (2) years

CAGE CASHIER (2)
male/female, 26-35 years old, must be well verse (oral & written) in Mandarin, Cantonese; Fokkien & Teocheow; with minimum of (3) years experience working as casino cage cashier

ASST. CASINO MANAGER (1)
male; 28-35 years old; must be well verse (oral & written) Mandarin, Cantonese, Fokkien & Teocheow; with min. of (5) years experience working as Asst. Casino Manager.

Applicants may send their resumé with credentials to:
ATTY. RUEL JOHN T. KABIGTING
Head, Labor & Employment - SBMA
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

SAN JUAN

Eisenhower Comm'l Unit 83.80m² 5313742

VARIOUS AREAS

Makati/Ortigas 2-3BRs 122-300m² 25T-85T 533-5525

FOR LEASE

1-3 Hec P50-70/m² With Bldg Cell 0917-4149898

ROOM & BOARD

Boarder nr. La Salle 8992148

Free H2O & light 8992148

LADIES Mktl. 7898246 Ana

LOAN & MORTGAGE

Loans-Doctors, Dentist, Salary, Business 524-3197

BUSINESS RENTAL

**Antel Global 142m² 350/m² Call 6812457

P1800/monthly Malate T-400-6420/23 Sn Pedro Lag. 8086006/07

**JMT BLdg 318m² at 280/m² Call 6812457

**Taipan Ortigas 129m² Call 681-2457

**Tektite 101m² Up at 300/m² Call 6812457

2/F Comm'l/Office Space for Rent 217sqm 78 Jup St Mktl Ave Call:8951368or8951733

● PSE-TEKTITE ● 50m² FF 631-4648 / 57

Makati Office Space 195m² 500/m² • 533-5525

Prime Office Space for Lease at 11F LV Locsin Bldg. Ayala Ave. w/ Manila Pen & Shangri-la View 440sqm CALL MANDY AT •817-6306 & 750-8468•

Shaw Pasig 12-1100m² Ofc Display Whse 6417760-61

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PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

Ranger US ver. 4x4 9126976

HONDA

Honda CBX 400cc T-3635865

HYUNDAI

94 GRACE P205 731-3492

98 GRACE P258 731-3492

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

2000 White Toyota Tam, FX HSPU 2ltr, 5 Spd, Stereo, A.C, Exc. P370,000 neg. 6 mth old, Ph 8527332

HYUNDAI

98 PREGIO P340 731-3492

KIA

94 BESTA P180 731-3492

98 BESTA P258 731-3492

MERCEDES

98 MB100D P390 731-3492

MB 126 Body See 2 apprcle • 634-8160

MITSUBISHI

96Lncr GLXi 243T A/T 8382015

97' Strada 4x4 9243301

S-Wagon Acq.'93 634-8160

NISSAN

98 Cefiro Elite A1 A/T 19Tkms 780K 8420343 DBO

MOTORCYCLE

Big bikes Honda VFR 750 cc Yamaha Vmax 1200 3635865

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Bnew HiAce 6336754 9100893

CARS•VANS•8957247•8969956 BUS•CSTER•BRIDAL•8955623

H-100 Van/Honda 920-7360

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

MB100 HiAceL300 2973807

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STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

U Drive Cars Vans 8006595

VAN 12-15 STR. 8257135

Car Vans 4535288/9296250

WANTED TO BUY

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

SINGAPORE HUMAN Resource Consultants Pte Ltd
Accreditation No. 55031

A Call Center company in Singapore urgently needs quality candidates to fill-in vacant positions

Open position:

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS

Candidates should be a degree holder, male/female, below 35 years old. Pleasing personality, fluent in English, computer literate and with a minimum 2 years experience in Call Center.

Successful candidates will be offered a 2-year contract-renewable, attractive salary package, life insurance, performance-based bonus, and career advancement.

Interested applicant may apply personally with their resumé, diploma, T/R, Employment Certificates, Passport and other pertinent documents (all must be prepared in A4 sizes bond paper) starting April 7, 2001 to:

IDEAS SERVICES & DEVELOPMENT CO., INC.
12 Kasing-Kasing Street corner K-9 Street
East Kamias, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 435-1769; 433-4494

This ad is allowed under MC-2
MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER

Acer

"OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF A HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION"

PRODUCTION & MATERIAL/SHIPPING CONTROL SUPERVISOR
(Computer System Plant)

Qualifications:
• Male, less than 30 years old • Industrial Engineering graduate • Preferably can speak English fluently • Must be well experienced in solving MB/PC PMC problem • Familiar with MB/PC PMC and Traffic Affairs • A good negotiation skills is required.

Requirements:
• Updated resumé with recent photo • Diploma / Transcript of Records • Birth Certificate • Employment Certificate

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ TO:
THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
C/O ACER INFORMATION PRODUCTS (PHILS), INC.
#4 Rizal Hi-way cor. Aim High Avenue.
SBIP Phase I Subic Bay Freeport Zone

URGENT!!!

30 REGISTERED MED. TECH.

- Young articulate & honest
- Training on April 6 to 7, 2001 at 1-4PM
- Bring resumé & credentials
- For Metro Manila/Provincial Assignment

NCR BIO-SCAN CLINLAB
S-815 Union Square Condominium
145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. No. 911-8959 / 911-8953

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BAKERY EQUIPMENT

Ice Crusher Shaver Other Kitchen Equip T-9981170

PETS

Maltese Shiatzu Chihua' Lab Pups 9112099 9976469

SPORTING GOODS

Billiard 23T 25T & 30T New Accept C.Card • 781-9453

STRIKEMASTER Bowling & Billiards Sales & Rentals T-9341569

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair ROLEX Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

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1Riso GR1700Mdl P180T w/ 2drums 2940659 0917-5382461

Computer P15T 435-2335

Drugstore Rights 4 Sale call 9131293 - Mary Rose

Purified Water P22/Bottle Min 25Bottles T#531-4267

Telfax, xerox, jeep, vcam8 call 09179903588/3508857

Yamaha XJR 1200 cc 194 P250T Yamaha Majesty T-3635865

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Architect M 2-4yrs Exp. Licensed 9289714 9279609

FEMALE

ACCOUNTING CLERK 7336420/7335177

Accountant (CPA) Chinese,Female RSPI Tel#8892981;8893055

DOMESTIC HELPER 303-9476

LIFGUARD•EROBIC INSTRUCTRESS 562-3962

Maid 4 Foreigner 726-1266

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 7284971

WANTED: (1) Female NURSE; (2) MIDWIVES; (1) Female MEDICAL SECRETARY •18-25 yrs. old. Single. Apply personally at 1748 Dian St. Barangay Palanan, Makati City, 9:00 am-4:00pm

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T-5280722

★ IMMIGRATE ★ LIVE and WORK in Canada Australia 8175511/8944950

MEDICALTRANSRIBER Needed Fast, Experienced, Flexible Hours, Salary neg. Bio-Data Fax 727-0822 E_M.AMCHAN@aol.com Schedule Makati Interview 9am - 8pm April 6 - 8, 2001 817-2301 or 09177922254

Ofc Staff 9134470 Petty

Ofc Staff 9134470 Jay

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

B'Ful Billiard Hall w/Mez 126sqm LOT 170FA 3 Impld Tbls w/ Income QC Rush P2.5M 823-6718

•EARN FR HOME 8531008•

ELECTION/PROMO Beach Golf Umbrella Pens Mugs T-shirt W'clock 532-3909

★ Organic Fertilizer ★ dealership 8175511 8944950

I made P970,000 in the last 3 months I need 25 women to train Call:Ms.Tan 5250228 or 34

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSS. FREE DEMO 2553584/2537617

RTW / Swimsuits 727-4934

RTW Cash/Consign 373-8821

T-SHIRT SALE TEL4383147

WOORI NARA CORPORATION Open for DEALERSHIP Korean Red Ginseng. Pls. call (043)7572222; Fax (043) 7572121

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice on the loss of Manila Electric Co. Cert. #484546A w/982 class A shares under Maria Ocampo if no contest r'ced new cert. will be issued PDI-March23,30April6,2001

BARGE & TUG FOR SALE

4,000 tonner. DECK BARGE WITH BIG RAMP w/ 1,400 hp tugboat
(For aggregates & roll on/off bulk cargoes)

1,200 tonner HATCH BARGE W/ CRANE with either 400 hp or 500 hp tugboat
(For dry cargoes like cement, cereal, etc.)

CRANE BARGE w/ 85 ton P&H CRANE
(For heavy lift & pile driving. Japan built)

All units in excellent working conditions

Call Cebu (+32) 346-1192 / 346-8803 for details

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will sell the following MOTOR VEHICLES:

4 units	1996 VOLVO 850 GLE SEDAN
5 units	2000 NISSAN PATROL SAFARI WAGON
2 units	2000 FORD EXPEDITION 4X4
2 units	2000 FORD EXPEDITION 4X2
1 unit	2000 MITSUBISHI PAJERO AT
1 unit	1999 FORD EXPEDITION XLT

located at BSP Motorpool and Sports Complex, P. Casal Street, Quiapo, Manila thru sealed bids to be received by the Committee not later than 10:00 A.M. on April 20, 2001 at Room MR-2A, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila.

Interested parties may inspect the aforesaid items at their locations before the bidding date.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer c/o Ms. Aurora S. Pascual, Administrative Services Department, Room 111, Ground Floor, 5-Storey Building, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, Telephone No. 524-98-98.

April 4, 2001.

(Sgd.) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Chairman

(PDI--April 4, 2001)

The FAST STEP towards finding the best JOBS.

GIA
THAILAND CAMPUS

Gemological Institute of America

Learn the principles of quality Jewelry Design from the world's #1 gemological institute

Jewelry Design Class

Step-by-Step, Develop the skills needed to create and illustrate designs for a variety of jewelry in full color and fine detail

NO artistic training or experience required

Next Jewelry Design Class starts April 30, 2001

GIA Thailand Campus

Tel: (662) 237-9575 to 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

NOTICE OF AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that pursuant to the provision of its Articles of Incorporation,By-Laws and Members' Handbook, The Orchard Golf and Country Club, Inc. (the "Club") will auction to the highest bidder the following Class "A", "B" and "C" shareholders certificates, default having been made in payment of outstanding obligations to the Club hereby secured:

Stock Certificate	Class	Registered Owner	Name of Member
C-00488	C	Caneland Sugar Corp.	Caneland Sugar Corp.
B-00308	B	Sim, Moon & Sim, Elvina	Poa, Eusebio L.
C-00382	C	Veem Entertainment Innovators	Mendoza, Miguel A./ Mendoza,Efren Jr. R.
C-00154	C	Reynolds Phil. Corp.	Verzosa, Ernesto S. (2 Nominees)
C-01035	A	Bautista, Jansen Jesus M.	Bautista, Jansen Jesus M.
A-00197	A	Go, Jimmy Tan	Go, Jimmy Tan
A-01765	A	Koh, Manuel	Koh, Manuel
A-00083	A	Bautista, Jaime/Bautista, Carmelita	Bautista, Jaime Orbeta
C-00033	C	Smoothline Ltd. Phil. Inc.	Yang, Seung Chun
B-00342	B	Kim, Jong W. & Kim, Hye S.	Kim, Jong Won
C-00562	C	Becco Phils. Inc.	Kim, Chang-Seok
B-00094	B	Morosawa, Fumiaki	Morosawa, Fumiaki
C-00548	C	Nouvelle Foods Inc.	Lim, Edwin B.
A-01841	A	Lim, Jimmy	Lim, Jimmy T.
B-00370	B	Ai, Soo Koon	Ai, Soo Koon
A-01794	A	Chua, George L. & Tan, Corazon D.	Chua, George L.
A-00604	A	Cebrero, Luis D. & Cebrero, Sandra	Cebrero, Luis D.
C-00020	C	Metrolab Industries, Inc.	Metrolab Industries, Inc.
A-00507	A	Ward Management Corp.	Roqueza, Ricardo S.
C-00433	C	Hi-Prestige Enterprises Corp.	Co, Elizabeth Rachel
B-00237	B	Jakubec, Ladislav	Jakubec, Ladislav
C-00048	C	Seachamp International Export C	Michiki, Shigetoshi
A-01361	A	Tan, Chi-Wan C.	Tan, Chi-Wan Chua
C-00281	C	Durex Industries Corp.	Durex Wires & Cables
C-00115	C	Multi-Mach International Inc.	Capistrano, Almario P.
A-01419	A	Yao, Jeanne L.	Yao, Jeanne L.
A-00820	A	Chua, Edita Lim	Chua, Edita Lim
A-01898	A	Lastimoso, Roberto F.	Lastimoso, Roberto F.

The Rules Governing the Auction of Delinquent Shares are available at the Membership Office starting on March 31, 2001. You may call Ms. Chiqui Bulaong at telephone numbers **(632) 843-8333; 42; 44; 49; 50; 53** and **61** or **(046) 416-5931** to **35**.

Interested parties are invited to attend the pre-auction conference on **April 21, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the Aguinaldo Room, Orchard Golf and Country Club, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The auction proper shall be held on **April 28, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the Aguinaldo Room, Orchard Golf and Country Club, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

(Sgd.) **Atty. Jesus A. Liganor**
Asst. Corporate Secretary

(PDI - Apr 6 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Sign of the Cross

Since as early as the 9th century the sign of the cross as a sacred gesture has been an integral part of religious services. The Western or Latin benediction is made outwardly with the extended thumb, index and middle fingers. This formation, called the *Mano Panten*, symbolizes the Trinity. The forehead cross was initially a secret sign by which Christians identified themselves to each other during times of persecution. Today, Roman Catholics and some Anglicans make the sign during prayers in two ways: as the 'Great Sign' with five fingers--representing Christ's five wounds--on the forehead, breast, and from the left shoulder across to the right; or at the beginning of the Gospel at Mass as the 'Lesser Sign,' with only the thumb on the forehead, the lips, and the breast or heart. Easter Christians trace the sign of the cross on the forehead, stomach and from right shoulder to left with the thumb, forefinger and middle finger, which again is symbolic of the Holy Trinity.

For the Record. Since early Christians forbade the use of images to allow any representation of the Crucifixion, no pictorial record exists indicating the actual shape of the cross used to crucify Jesus. The bible mentions the cross of Christ only once (Matthew 27:37), but no inference regarding its shape can be made from this reference.

Past Forward. This day in 1896: The first modern Olympic Games opened in Athens, Greece. It was initiated by French aristocrat Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who hoped to stimulate interest in physical fitness and promote understanding between nations. The event was a revival of the ancient Olympic Games, whose first record dates from 776 B.C., held every four years to honor the Greek god Zeus -- until Greece lost its independence and the Christian Roman emperor, Theodosius, abolished them to discourage paganism, in 394 A.D.

WORD WATCH

Pagan (pay guhn) : from the Latin *paganus*, which originally meant 'a peasant or countryman'; but in the Roman army *paganus* became a derisive term for civilians who refuse to enlist, and since the early Christians thought of themselves as members of Christ's army, they used *paganus* to refer to a heathen, someone who was not 'a soldier of Christ.'

PDI - - April 6, 2001

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

The following were the winners on the Auction conducted by the National Food Authority (NFA) for the Importation of Premium, Fancy and Glutinous rice by the Private Sector last March 29, 2001:

NAME OF COMPANY/ IMPORTER	VOLUME (IN MT)	EQUALIZATION FEE (PHP/MT)
1. SOLAR HARVEST, INC.	500.00	10,000.00
2. GREAT CAPE TRADING	500.00	7,500.00
3. FABERCO MKTG. CORP.	1,000.00	7,035.00
4. SACCHAROSE TRADING	1,000.00	6,850.00
5. J.O. MARKETING	1,000.00	6,750.00
6. R & C AGRO TRADE	1,000.00	6,700.00
7. VICENTE PORAQUE	1,000.00	6,700.00
8. METRO STAR RICE MILL	500.00	6,510.00
9. METRO GRAIN MARKETING	250.00	6,500.00
10. CRICKLEWOODS INT'L INC.	250.00	6,500.00
11. NICOLYN ENTERPRISES	250.00	6,500.00
12. MARILYN GEN. MDSE.	250.00	6,500.00
TOTAL	7,500.00	

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
Chairman, Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee and Assistant Administrator

(PDI--April 6, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
(Reference: Admin Order No. 001, s. 1988)

The SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES is hereby inviting interested contractors/suppliers to bid for the following:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE	PUBLIC BIDDING
1.	Four (4) sets Conference & Discussion System consisting of Four (4) Central Power & Control Units, Four (4) Chairman's Microphone units. Sixty-eight (68) Delegate's Microphone units and Four (4) units Microphone Extension Cables	24 April 2001, 10:00 AM	26 April 2001, 10:00 AM
2.	Twenty (20) units Semi-Automatic Pistol, 9MM	24 April 2001, 11:00 AM	26 April 2001, 11:00 AM

All interested contractors/suppliers may secure prequalification requirements from the PBAC Secretariat Office located at Rm. 401, 4/F, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on 5-11 April 2001. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents shall be on 18 April 2001. Incomplete prequalification requirements will not be entertained. All applicants shall be notified on the result of the evaluation of prequalification documents submitted.

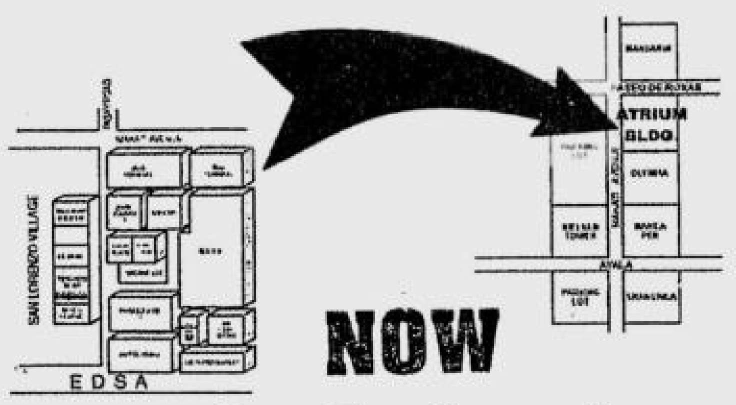
Bidders shall be required to post a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price or Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) whichever is higher in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check or surety bond issued by the GSIS. All surety bonds must be callable on demand.

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THEIR AWARD, AND THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR ANY PART THEREOF, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT AN OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
Chairman, Prequalification, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--April 4, 5 & 6, 2001)

Inquirer's Makati Branch



NOW in Atrium!

Classified Ads
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Ground Floor, Atrium Bldg.,
Makati Avenue,
Makati City
New Tel. Nos. 811-4370 / 811-4361
811-4012 / 892-5578

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB MARKET
Career Fair 2001
It's where you'll find the BEST

The **INQUIRER**'s Job Market has again lived up to its mandate to bridge the gap between employer and job seekers. The Job Market Career Fair 2001 offers you the biggest opportunity to find a career. Come to the Glorietta Activity Center on April 23 to 25, 2001 and file applications with more than 200 leading corporations. Come to Job Market Career Fair 2001 – it's where the brightest people find the best jobs.

AYALA CENTER
VillMan
Pioneer

If you're interested to join "Job Market Career Fair 2001," kindly fill out this form and fax it any of the INQUIRER branch listed below.

☐ Yes, we would like to be a part of the "Job Market Career Fair 2001" on April 23 to 25, 2001 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala, Makati City
☐ Please call me
☐ Please send me more info

Client's Name: __________
Position: __________
Company: __________
Address: __________
Tel #: __________

MAKATI (MAIN):
PASONG TAMO AVE. COR. YAGUE & MASCARDO STS. MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8808 loc. 514
☎ 8972535 (Direct)
897-4808

MAKATI BRANCH:
G/F ATRIUM OF MAKATI, MAKATI CITY
☎ 811-4361, 811-4370,
892-5578

QUEZON CITY:
ALI MALL ARCADE GEN ROMULO ST. ARANETA CENTER CUBAO QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008 to 10
912-9011

MANILA:
G/F TRINITY BLDG. T.M KALAW ST. ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 527 3342, 528-0183, 528-0188
528-0213

MANDALUYONG:
SM MEGAMALL 5TH LEVEL BUILDING B EDSA
☎ 635-0219, 637-2008
635-0220

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY OF THE FOLLOWING:

a. Contract Package No. 13: Four (4)-Drawer Lateral Files (Stand Alone) with Overhead File Cabinet, Four (4)-Drawer Lateral Files (Stand Alone) without Overhead Cabinet and Open File Shelves;
b. Contract Package No. 13A: Lateral Files (On Tracks with Fixed File Cabinet);
c. Contract Package No. 13B: File Cabinet for Maps and Index Cards; and
d. Contract Package No. 13C: File Compactors

All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply, delivery and assembly of lateral files and compactors for office buildings are invited to apply for pre-qualification and bidding for Contract Package Nos. 13, 13A, 13B and 13C for the new LBP Headquarters Building in Malate, Manila with the following schedule:

Issuance of Pre-Qualification Form	Pre-qualification Conference	Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification after		Issuance of Notice of Pre-Qualification/ Pre-Disqualification	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
April 06 to 11, 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	April 18, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	a. Evaluation of Pre-qualification Documents & Brochures	May 04, 2001	May 21, 2001	May 22 to 23, 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	May 24, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	May 30, 2001 @ 10:00 AM
		b. Evaluation of displays versus Brochures	May 11, 2001				
		c. Selection of top choices for the displays by Sub-Committee and Special Committee	May 21, 2001				

All interested Suppliers may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the LBP Ad Hoc Group Office, c/o Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 2F LBP Bldg. III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,400.00.

After the pre-qualification conference, Suppliers shall be given four (4) calendar days to signify in writing their interest to join the pre-qualification process by accomplishing the proforma Letter of Intent (LOI) included in the pre-qualification forms issued earlier. Attendance to the pre-qualification conference is among the requirements for pre-qualification.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than April 24, 2001, 3:00 PM after which no documents will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the above-stated office/date upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Pre-Qualification and Pre-Bid conferences will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Conference Room , 2F, LBP Bldg. III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" & "B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM on May 30, 2001 (the Bidding Date). Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Bldg. III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

GILDA E. PICO
CHAIRMAN,
SUB-COMMITTEE FOR LBP HQ BLDG. PROJECT

(PDI – April 4, 5 & 6, 2001)

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In Loving Memory Of

Dr. Ernesto Y. Sibal

on the 24th anniversary of his death

April 7, 2001

Masses will be offered at the following churches:

St. Anthony's Shrine, Sampaloc, Manila	6:15 am
Nuestra Sra. De Guia Parish, Ermita, Manila	6:30 am
Baguio Cathedral, Baguio City	6:30 am
St. Francis Parish Church, Mandaluyong City	7:00 am
San Roque Parish Church, Mandaluyong City	7:00 am
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan	7:15 am
Sta. Cruz Parish Church, Sta. Cruz, Manila	8:00 am
Quiapo Church, Manila	12:15 pm
Church of the Nativity, Atherton, California	5:00 pm
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Ave., QC	6:00 pm
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, New Manila, QC	6:00 am 7:00 am 6:00 pm

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

---

FRANCISCO DE GUIA SALAZAR

of Indang, Cavite
Former Regional Director, Bureau of Soils

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 4, 2001 at the age of 82.

His loving wife **Avelina de las Alas**; children **Celina** and **Cecil Tady, Veronica** and **Juanito Felipe**; grandchildren **Ris, Francis** and **Denny**; **Hanna, Nico** and **Joey**; and other relatives request their pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the residence in Indang, Cavite.

Interment will be on April 8, 2001, Sunday after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Saint Gregory Parish Church, Indang, Cavite.

"You will be forever in our hearts PAPA."

RAMON GAYA VILLANUEVA, SR.

of Guinobatan, Albay and San Diego, California

peacefully joined his Creator on April 2, 2001 at the age of 85.

His loving wife **LOURDES OLÓNDRIZ VILLANUEVA**; children Mila and Pete Gabon, Tita and Ernesto Mabato, Olive and Fred Dayno, Yolie and Mannie Zaragoza, Ramon, Sr. and Ruby Villanueva, and Nena Villanueva; grandchildren and great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Fort Bonifacio Mortuary, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, April 7, 2001 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani after the 11:00 AM Holy Mass.

COL. ROMULO S. CUSTODIO, AFP (RET.)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 1, 2001 at the age of 84.

He is survived by his second wife **Jovita Quintos**; children **Clarita, Evelyn, Estrella, Nora, Nelia, Venus, Thelma, Leo** and **Marilou** and their families; stepchildren **Lito** and **Edith**; sisters and brothers and other relatives.

His remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Shrine, Broadway, New Manila.

Interment will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 7, 2001 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio following Mass at 8:00 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel Shrine.

In Loving Memory
on the
5th Death Anniversary
of

ANTONIO MONTILLA ESTEBAN

Knight of Columbus
April 6, 2001

San Sebastian Cathedral, Bacolod City	7:00 AM
Redemptorist Church, Bacolod City	5:30 PM
Queen of Peace Church, Bacolod City	5:30 PM
Carmelite Church, Bacolod City	6:30 AM
Sacred Heart Shrine, Bacolod City	5:30 PM
St. Jude Shrine, Bacolod City	6:00 PM
Miraculous Medal Church, Bacolod City	6:30 PM
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes, Makati City	12:15 PM
Don Bosco Church, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City	6:00 PM
St. Alphonsus de Liguori Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City	7:00 AM

In Loving Memory
on the
First Death Anniversary
of

VIRGINIA T. CALALANG

Who passed away on April 6, 2000.

Holy Masses will be offered today at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

We members of Virginia's family, request all her loved one, relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for her.

We would like to thank everyone, who in any way or another, became a part of Virginia's meaningful life.

VICENTE P. DE LA PAZ, SR., M.D.

UST MEDICINE 1929

of Marikina and M. de la Fuente, Sampaloc
December 24, 1900 - April 4, 2001

His children Vicente, Jr. & Linda Narvaez, Hernani & Dioly, Conchita Granada, Amelia & Leslie Garcia; sister Carmen Pineda, Brother Pedro, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, West Triangle, Quezon City.

Interment will be on April 7, 2001 at the Holy Cross Memorial, Novaliches after the 9:00 AM Mass.

Please omit flowers.

ROWENA GO VEÑANOLA

December 31, 1969 - April 3, 2001

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 3, 2001

Her dearest husband **Gaudencio Veñanola**; sons **Ryan** and **Edward Anthony**; daughter **Reggie**; father **Eduardo**; mother **Rosita**; brother **Edwin**; sister-in-law **Arlene**; relatives, staffs and employees of Mansion Design Center, Inc. request the pious readers to pray for the peaceful repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Claret Chapel in Quezon City.

Her body will be cremated on Saturday, April 7, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at La Funeraria Paz, Inc. Crematorium.

Julia Sapinoso Mascardo

*Widow of the late **Dr. Modesto Mascardo***

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 3, 2001 at the age of 94.

Her loving children **Mimi** and **Bodi**; children-in-law, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 8, 2001 at the Imus, Cemetery after the 3:30 p.m. Mass at the Imus Cathedral.

Rosalinda Magdaluyo Asuncion

of M. Ocampo, Makati City, who died last tuesday, will be buried tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque.

She is survived by her husband **Leopoldo Asuncion**, children **Edgardo, Ronald** and **Ryan**, brothers **Raymundo, Renato** and **Romeo**, and sisters **Maria Theresa, Aida** and **Lydia**.

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CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. 732-0009, 732-1005
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, [illegible], Mandaue City, Cebu
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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721, 231-3182
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
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DON BOSCO CHAPELS
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Lower Level, Gaisano Mall, Bajada
Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza, Bajada
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Improperly accumulated earnings tax

By Henry M. Tan
SGV & Co.

TAX FILES

THE APRIL 15 tax deadline is fast approaching and domestic corporations are still feeling uncertain on the application of the Improperly Accumulated Earnings Tax (IAET) imposed under Sec. 29 of the 1997 Tax Code. As early as last year's tax deadline, the imposition of the IAET has created confusion on many domestic corporations. The Annual Income Tax Return required to be used at that time (BIR Form 1702, July 1999) already provided a section for the computation of the IAET and yet, the tax authorities have not issued the revenue regulations that would implement the Tax Code provision imposing the IAET.

Recently, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued the Revenue Regulations that would implement the imposition of the IAET. Below are the salient features of the RR.

Concept

The IAET is a tax equal to 10 percent of the improperly accumulated taxable income of corporations formed or availed of for the purpose of avoiding the income tax with respect to its shareholders or the shareholders of any other corporation, by permitting the earnings and profits of the corporation to accumulate instead of dividing them to the shareholders. The IAET is a form of penalty on firms for the improper accumulation of its earnings, and a form of deterrent to the avoidance of tax upon shareholders who are supposed to pay dividends tax on the earnings distributed to them by the firm.

The failure to pay dividends, however, would not automatically make the accumulated or undistributed earnings subject to tax. If the failure to pay dividends is due to some other causes, such as the use of the undistributed earnings and profits for the reasonable needs of the business, the IAET will not be applied. The IAET shall be imposed if there is a determination that a corporation has accumulated income beyond the reasonable needs of the business.

Determination of reasonable needs

To determine the "reasonable needs" of the business in order to justify an accumulation of earnings, the Regulations adhere to the so-called "Immediacy Test" under American jurisprudence as adopted in the Philippines. The term "reasonable needs of the business" has been defined to mean the immediate needs of the business, including reasonable anticipated needs. The corporation should be able to prove an immediate need for the accumulation of the earnings, or the direct correlation of anticipated needs to such accumulation of profits.

The Regulations constitute the following as accumulation of earnings for the reasonable needs of the business:

a) Allowance for the increase in the accumulation of earnings up to 100 percent paid-up capital of the corporation as of Balance Sheet date, inclusive of accumulations taken from other years;

b) Earnings reserved for definite corporate expansion projects or programs requiring considerable capital expenditure as approved by the Board of Directors or equivalent body;

c) Earnings reserved for building, plants or equipment acquisition as approved by the Board of Directors or equivalent body;

d) Earnings reserved for compliance with any loan covenant or preexisting obligation established under a legitimate business agreement;

e) Earnings required by law or applicable regulations to be retained by the corporation or in respect of which there is legal prohibition against its distribution;

f) In the case of subsidiaries of foreign corporations in the Philippines, all undistributed earnings intended or reserved for investments within the Philippines as can be proven by corporate records and/or relevant documentary evidence.

On the other hand, the following are considered prima facie instances of accumulation of profits beyond the reasonable needs of a business and indicative of purpose to avoid income tax upon shareholders:

a) Investment of substantial earnings and profits of the corporation in unrelated business or in stock or securities or unrelated business;

b) Investment in bonds and other long-term securities;

c) Accumulation of earnings in excess of 100 percent paid-up capital, not otherwise intended for the reasonable needs of the business.

In order to avoid the imposition of the IAET, a speculative and indefinite purpose at the time of accumulation will not suffice. The mere recognition of a future problem or the discussion of possible and alternative solutions is not sufficient. Definiteness of plan/s coupled with action/s taken toward its consummation are essential.

Tax base	
Taxable income for the year	xxx
Add:	
Income exempt from tax	xxx
Income excluded from gross income	xxx
Income subject to final tax	xxx
Amount of Net-operating Loss Carry-over (Nolco) deducted	xxx
Less:	
Income tax paid/payable for the taxable year	xxx
Dividends actually or constructively paid/issued from the applicable year's taxable income	xxx
Amount reserved for the reasonable needs of the business emanating from the covered year's taxable income	xxx
Improperly Accumulated Taxable Income	xxx
IAET (at 10%)	xxx

Once the profit has been subjected to IAET, the same shall no longer be subjected to the IAET in later years even if not declared. The Improperly Accumulated Income for a given year will be subjected to the IAET only once. Profits which have been subjected to IAET when finally declared as dividends, shall nevertheless be subject to tax on dividends, where applicable.

For purposes of determining the source of earnings declared from accumulated income for each taxable year, the dividends shall be deemed to have been paid out of the most recently accumulated profits and shall constitute a part of the annual income of the distributee for the year in which received. However, where the dividends form part of the accumulated earnings as of Dec. 31, 1997, or emanate from the accumulated income of a particular year and, therefore, is an exception to the preceding statement, such fact must be supported by a duly executed Board Resolution to that effect.

Period for Payment of Dividend/Payment of IAET

The dividends must be declared and paid not later than one year following the close of the taxable year, otherwise, the IAET, if any, should be paid within 15 days thereafter.

To illustrate, for the year ended Dec. 31, 2000, domestic corporations are given until Dec. 31, 2001 to declare dividends out of the accumulated taxable income for the year so that the same can be considered (deducted) in the computation of the improperly accumulated taxable income.

Determination of purpose to avoid income tax

The fact that a corporation is a mere holding company or investment company is prima facie evidence of a purpose to avoid the tax upon its shareholders or members. The term "holding company" refers to a corporation having practically no activities except holding property, and collecting the income therefrom or investing the same.

Transitory provision

The IAET will not apply on improperly accumulated income as of Dec. 31, 1997 in the case of firms using the calendar year basis. In the case of corporations adopting the fiscal year accounting period, the IAET will not apply on improperly accumulated taxable income as of the end of the month comprising the 12-month period of fiscal year 1997-1998.

Taxable income improperly accumulated prior to the effectivity of the IAET regulations if declared as dividend and paid/issued within one month from its effectivity will not be subjected to the IAET. The IAET regulations take effect 15 days after publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

In light of the foregoing, it is imperative for domestic corporations to evaluate if they have improperly accumulated taxable income which may necessitate the declaration of dividends to avoid the imposition of the IAET. The domestic corporations should use the provisions under the IAET Regulations to do this evaluation. Particularly, an evaluation should be made on whether or not the accumulation of taxable income is within the reasonable needs of the business as contemplated under the IAET Regulations.

Inasmuch as this is the more pressing issue, an evaluation of the 1998 and 1999 accumulated taxable income should be prioritized as pursuant to the Transitory Provision of the IAET Regulations, domestic corporations are given effectively just 45 days (15 days plus 1 month) from the publication of the IAET Regulations within which to declare dividends (if there has been improper accumulation of taxable income) to avoid the imposition of the IAET.

Short on cash? Use bank's 'gives system'

By Raul C. Dancel

MARKETING STRATEGY

FACE it. The sky's not always the limit, even if it's for a once-in-a-lifetime event like a debut or a wedding. In most things in life, the budget is an unmerciful dictator; the power of the purse often defines how special a celebration will be.

With its Paylite installment plan, Citibank NA isn't exactly setting the sky as a limit, but it is giving its cardholders a fighting chance. There's still a limit, a "credit line"—but Citibank, through its Paylite—is raising the limit so that its cardholders will have twice the size of their original budget and get more choices.

'Ilang-gives' system

Over the last two years, Paylite has been steadily gaining acceptance. In 1998, the then-nascent service had only a few hundred users; today, thousands of Citibank cardholders are "Payliting" their purchases, especially for big-ticket items like appliances and vacation packages.

Simply put, Paylite is a highly organized version of the "Ilang-gives system" common among many Filipinos. It is about paying for big-ticket items in installment.

Let's say you want to buy a P12,000 colored TV. If you're a Citibank cardholder, you can charge it the regular way, which is to have the full amount reflected the next time your billing statements arrive, or you can "Paylite it." This means paying for the item in installments of three to 24 months. Once you inform the merchant that you want to pay for the item in 12 months, your payments are broken down into 12 installments, which in this case is P1,000 a month. The credit card company bills you P1,000 a month, not the whole P12,000, until the 12th month. If your lucky, you may even get an item without paying any interest.

"The concept is that the longer the terms are, the lighter the monthly amortization will be. That's really the main concept: to make these big-ticket items affordable to consumers. That's really the thrust of the program," says Citibank's product marketing whiz, Bea Tan.

A common misconception: Not all Citibank cardholders have access to Paylite; you have to enroll in one. Tan explains that Paylite is readily available to all Citibank cardholders. If you have a Citibank Visa or MasterCard, all you have to do is go to a Paylite-accredited merchant, buy the items you want and tell them you're paying in installments.

Force to reckon with

Citibank is a latecomer in the installment payment business. It introduced Paylite in late 1998, when its consumer spending analysts—guys who do nothing all day but look at computer screens and billing statements to see how many people use their credit cards to buy appliances, diapers, groceries, etc.—told their bosses that the money was really in installment plans. People were spending on big-ticket items but were spreading payments over three to 24 months.

So Citibank got into the game. A credit card company's raison d'etre, after all, is getting people to spend. If people don't use their credit cards, then credit card companies won't get those itsy-bitsy bonanzas like "finance charges" and "interest payments" that pumps up their billion-dollar industry.

In two years, Paylite has become a force to reckon with. It boasts of the highest and most flexible credit line, and claims to offer the most convenience.

Its minimum credit line is P25,000, five times its closest competitor's. The amount isn't divided into straight charge and installment, like other credit card companies do with their credit lines.

"What we want to do is give the credit cardholder the empowerment to do their own budgeting. Let's say, if they think that they want to use P20,000 for Paylite and P5,000 for straight charges, they can go ahead and do so. It's their own prerogative on how they want to manage their finances," explains Tan.

Make it special

Tan says Citibank also offers convenience.

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Marketing a politician: How to lose an election

By Dennis M. Arroyo

LET'S say you're running for a seat in Congress. However, you were just pressured by party-mates to throw your hat into the ring. Deep down you don't want to win.

And you want to get back at all those businessmen who contributed to your party.

Here are some ideas on how to lose your election. It's based on survey data from the Social Weather Stations. (This writer is an SWS fellow, but the article is not an SWS paper.)

- **Insist that Joseph Estrada is still the legitimate President.**

The SWS February 2001 survey asked the people to pick which of the following statements was closer to their opinion. Here were the results.

"What was expressed at Edsa People Power II was the sentiment of the majority:" 71 percent

"What was expressed at Edsa People Power II was the sentiment of only a few:" 28 percent

In the February 2001 survey, 61 percent agreed with this test statement: "People Power II, where former President Joseph Estrada was forced to abandon his position, was proper." Only 20 percent disagreed with it, for a net agreement score of +41 percentage points.

The same poll ran the test statement, "The military and the police made the right decision in withdrawing their support from President Estrada." The ratios were similar: 59 percent agreed with this versus 20 percent who disagreed.

The net trust rating of President Macapagal-Arroyo (percent who trust her minus the percent who distrust her) has turned from negative to positive. Here is the recent time series:

December 2000	-9
January 2001	-11
February 2001	+34

That's a huge 45-percentage point reversal. In short, the nation has accepted her new leader.

- **Ignore the problems of the poor.**

Joseph Estrada won the elections of 1998 largely because he projected himself as the spokesman of the poor. The December 1996 SWS national survey asked the people to choose three qualities they sought in a presidential candidate. The top trait was being pro-poor:

Pro-poor	64 percent
Approachable	40 percent
Knowledgeable in running economic affairs	38 percent
Intelligent	38 percent
Never involved in corruption	34 percent
Decisive	27 percent
Enemy of criminals	24 percent
Religious	22 percent
High morality	11 percent

In survey after survey, the people keep saying that high prices are the nation's top difficulty. For example, the December 2000 poll asked, "What do you think is the most important problem of the country today?" The results were:

High prices	43 percent
Unemployment	10 percent
Governance	19 percent
Other economic problems	17 percent
Public order and safety	5 percent

The Erap campaign knew the survey results and crafted the slogans, "Erap para sa mahihirap," "Kontra sa pagtaas ng presyo," "Trabaho para sa Pilipino."

- **Treat the elections as a class war.**

In the SWS March 5-18, 2001 poll, those in the top 13 senatorial slots numbered eight from the People Power Coalition, four from Puwersa ng Masa, and one independent.

The distribution was nine PPC, three Puwersa ng Masa, and one independent for the comfortable class ABC. It was a similar 8-4-1 for the poor class D, and also 8-4-1 for the very poor class E.

Recall the test statement that People Power II was just. This belief cut across classes: net agreement was +52 in class ABC, +44 in class D, and +25 in class E.

What about the test statement that it was right for the military and police to withdraw support from Joseph Estrada. The net agreement scores for this were +40 for class ABC, +43 for class D, and +28 for class E.

- **Bad mouth the Church.**

SWS asks the people if they trust or distrust certain institutions, then computes a reading of net trust: percent trust minus percent distrust. The Church usually gets very high scores. For example, these were the net trust ratings of the December 1999 poll:

Police	+16
Local courts	+21
Judges	+23
Supreme Court	+29
Newspapers	+38
Church	+83

- **Ask for an endorsement from a Church official.**

The people are against active political support from the Church.

Back in the April 1992 survey, SWS ran this question: "If a candidate is endorsed by your priest/minister, what would you most probably do? Would you Vote for him/her, Not Vote for him/her, or it would have No Effect?"

While 52 percent said the clergy's endorsement would have No Effect, 28 percent said they would probably NOT vote for the candidate. Only 19 percent said they would probably vote for him/her. This revealed a backlash.

- **Oppose censorship of movies.**

This issue is in the news, so it should be examined. Contrary to what columnists think, a large majority of the Filipino people FAVOR the censorship of films.

The SWS December 1999 survey ran the test statement, "Censorship of films is necessary to uphold moral standards." The results were:

Agree	71 percent
Disagree	13 percent
Undecided	15 percent

The Agree scores were the majority in all the classes: 80 percent in class ABC, 72 percent in class D, and 57 percent in class E.

The same survey asked what bothered viewers when they watched movies. This distribution was obtained:

Sexual scenes	47 percent
Violence	32 percent
Lewd language	22 percent
None	1 percent

Hence, only one percent was not bothered by sexual or violent content in movies.

- **Shy away from television appearances.**

In February 2001, the people were asked how they got their information on the impeachment trial. By far the main source was TV (60 percent), followed by radio (12 percent). The other sources were print media and friends and relatives.

In the December 1999 poll, the people revealed how often they followed the news. Among TV viewers, 61 percent followed the news daily. The corresponding ratios were 37 percent for radio and 17 percent for newspapers. The medium for daily attention is TV.

It's no wonder that broadcaster Noli de Castro leads the Senate race, with an impressive 59 percent of the electorate, as seen in the March poll.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1

LIFESTYLE Trend Spotting

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Bus drivers on shabu

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

A *BALIKBAYAN* friend described the unpredictability of his newly rediscovered life in Metro Manila, compared with the organized life in the US: "It's exciting; it's like going on a jungle safari every day."

That was years ago. I don't know if he still feels the same excitement and sense of wonder about Metro Manila's chaotic streets today. We don't share his excitement but we agree—every day is like a jungle safari, you don't know what kind of wild beasts you'll run into on the road.

I remember his classic description because in the next few days, we'll be hitting the road in droves for out-of-town destinations for the Lenten break. The prospect of travel hits me with a sense of terror because of a conversation I had with a former Land Transportation Office official in the tennis court a few days ago. What he told us had such chilling effect it made me forget my bad backhand.

He said he felt the urgent need to talk about his LTO stint again because summer travel is upon us, and he remembers the kind of bus drivers on the loose out there.

No mechanical failure

When **Mariano "MG" Gui Jr.**—that's his name—was a special assistant in the LTO during the Ramos administration, his office conducted drug tests among public bus drivers, with the cooperation of bus companies. After doing some urine tests, they discovered that 40 percent of the bus drivers tested positive for drug use. He said even the bus operators were alarmed by the shabu use among their employees so that they agreed to make them undergo rehabilitation.

"So you see, chances are, those buses falling off the cliff, or ramming into passengers, were not the simple result of mechanical failure," he told us.

We live with speed maniacs every day on the road, and we've heard rumors about bus drivers being on shabu, but we—at least I—didn't know of a study confirming such substance abuse on our city and national roads. We didn't know for sure that such speed maniacs were—or are—on speed and other banned substance.

According to Gui, drivers, especially those on long-haul trips, resorted to shabu to stay awake on the road, for longer stamina. "What perhaps they didn't accept was the fact that your reflexes could be ruined. In your mind, you had already stepped on the brakes, but in fact, your body hadn't followed what your mind said," he explained.

The results of such study prodded them, he said, to conduct regular monitoring of bus drivers for drug use, and they were about to do a similar study on jeepney drivers when there was a change of administration and, naturally, of LTO officials. Now he regrets that such program has been discontinued, despite the high incidence of road accidents, many of them fatal.

Shocking

I tipped off our Metro editor **Louie Camino** about this and he agreed that his staff will be looking into this in the next few days.

But whatever the hard facts the INQUIRER Metro staff will unearth, you will agree that what this ex-LTO official said, while it is shocking and appalling, is not really incredible. Drug use, especially shabu, and for the young, Ecstasy, continues to be on the rise so that you don't want to let your kids out of your sight. Even now drug syndicates are in the headlines.

But we didn't really want to believe that drivers—especially public vehicle drivers—are literally running on drugs even as you share your public space with them.

The LTO is not really our favorite government body. It has displayed incredible deafness to countless INQUIRER editorials decrying the regularity of fatal road accidents. But shabu use among drivers, that continues to go unmonitored and unchecked, is something else. We can live with traffic and un-road-worthy vehicles, but we shouldn't be made to live with sure death on the road. And that's not even counting the exploding tankers driven by boys on student driver's permit.

That LTO study was done years ago. Just think how outdated it must be now, how the numbers must have surely gone up.

Right, this revelation will surely dampen your Holy Week lifestyle, but it is a grave issue the LTO must look into. Better that the heads of these LTO officials roll, than the heads of us motorists literally rolling on the road.

Self-defense

I knew that crime on the road is a popular issue especially now among female drivers, but I never

BUS/ p.C6

Sorry to dampen your Holy Week lifestyle but think about this study, then rant—and pray

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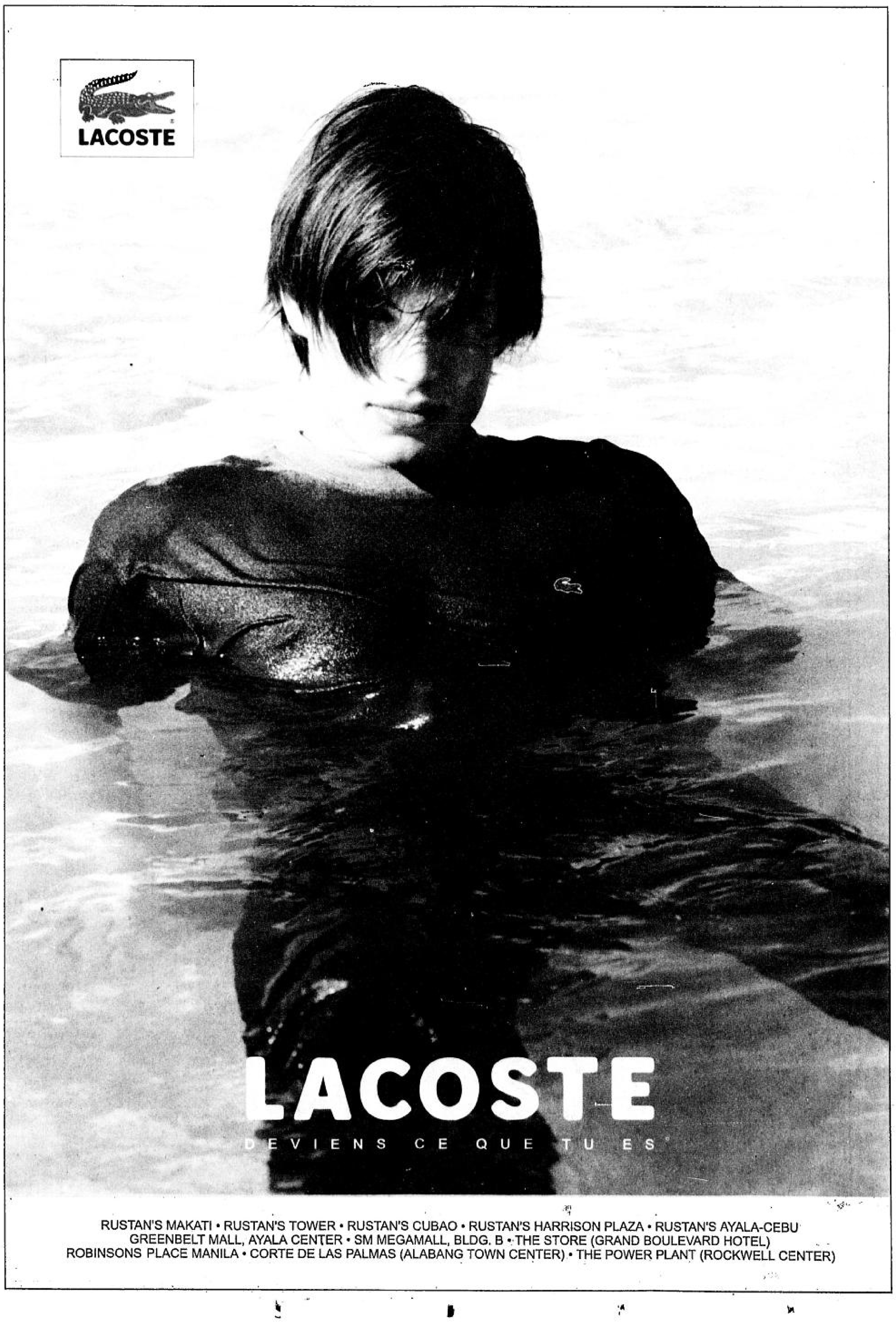

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The rock stars of yesteryears may have gone classic, but nothing stops you from appropriating Glam Rock and living the wild fantasy

STEPHANIE and Jessica Kienle wear rock-star T-shirts with black pants and wide belts.

JESSICA is in a halter top and black pants with studded pockets. Stephanie wears an Op Art shirt and black pants.

Let's rock

BY CAMILLE T. CRUZ
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

ONCE in a while I revive the music of my childhood—New Wave, slow rock and not-so-heavy metal music. But I must admit I prefer music that falls under the "cheesy" category, well at least that's what some people say.

Those were the days of rocking the house, as shown by the fashion then. That style of dressing—Glam Rock—never disappeared.

Glam Rock started in the late '60s with artists such as David Bowie, T. Rex's Marc Bolan and Roxy Music in London, and Iggy Pop defining the style. In the West Coast, the rock stars and groupies adapted the glitzy style of Hollywood by wearing lots of gold and donning boa feathers. They teetered down through the doors in platforms and spiked boots.

Today there's a new generation of kids wanting to play dress-up and party. They like to add a little dab of glitter.

Labels have adapted the Glam Rock style. Dolce & Gabanna came out with black and tangerine sequined berets. Cassadei has gold lamé boots, Rampage has rhinestone belts and Gap produced blue leather jeans.

Manufacturers for mass-market labels have popularized the Glam Rock with PVC or polyurethane skirts and tops made of nylon, spandex and polyester, embossed with counter-culture icons.

The little stalls of Shoppesville are forever a faithful carrier of the Glam Rock scene. They offer affordable but adventurous fashion that comes in print, feather, faux leather, tight fit, bright colors or fishnet.

Not only has black remained dominant. Colors have brightened in hue and multiplied in print.

Of course, many of our favorite rock artists have donned a classic, toned-down look—silk-screened T-shirts and leather pants. But nothing stops you from out-rocking them.

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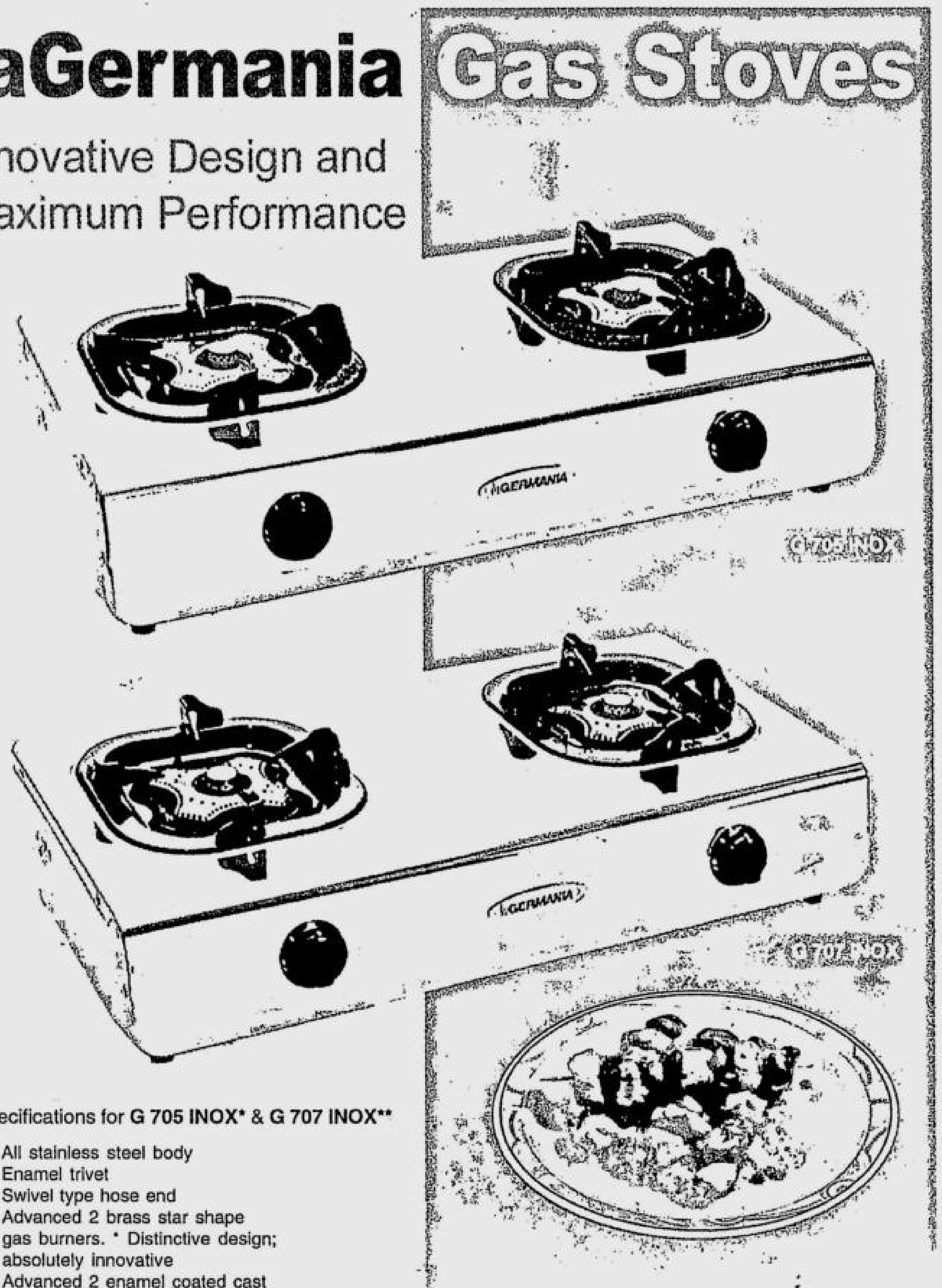

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Garment road show pits local with foreign designers

BY HARRIET ANN DY

WHICH will sell more, locally designed garment products or those designed with European design consultants?

This is the big question at the recently concluded Garment and Textile Board (GTEB)-organized garment road show in London and Brussels.

Now on its fourth phase of business, the PROfil road show brings together 24 of the country's largest garment manufacturers in a solid effort to strengthen the country's image as a manufacturing and design base.

Under this concept, companies are divided into "teams" or "clusters." Each one handles a specific category—whether children's wear, knitwear, ladies' wear, sportswear or even accessories—and are grouped together as a team providing a complete collection for better marketability to European buyers.

> Dwindling garment quotas have prodded local exporters to invest in product development

"It's a service we have to do considering that, labor-wise, we are not a low-cost country anymore," says Fe Agoncillo Reyes, executive director of GTEB. "We are no longer doing a shotgun approach but a rifle one where each team has identified the customers and are focusing on them."

Under the program, teams work together with designers like Lulu Tan-Gan, knitwear design consultant Emiliana Santagata, and children's wear design consultants Charlotte Rhodes and Claire Nockton to come up with complete collections for Spring 2002.

"The long-term goal is to establish a design studio where buyers can go and buy designs," says Reyes.

Product investment

Although the PROfil concept is not new—Tan-Gan says a similar program started over a decade ago but only designers who made it to export are those with manufacturing capabilities—it is only in the last few years that garment companies have aggressively invested in product development, largely due to dwindling garment quotas.

"When the quota is lifted, garment manufacturers with no investment in product development will be seriously affected," says Tan-Gan. Herself an exporter, she has started offering design consultancy services since last year and has a handful of designers like Robi Lolin working with her.

Tan-Gan's team is spearheading the casual wear cluster, while British design duo Rhodes and Nockton are the design hands behind the children's wear cluster. Major knitwear manufacturer MR Knitwear Specialists, meanwhile, has hired UK-based Santagata to come up with Spring 2002 collection. Among the latter's big-name buyers include Marks & Spencer, Pampolina, Zara and Laura Ashley.

This year, PROfil has added Swarovski design competition winner, Cebu-based accessories designer Butch Carungay, in its roster.

"It's about creating your own trends," says Mandy de la Rama-Santos, head of product development and assistant general manager of MR and one of Manila's young style setters. "We can never compete in terms of price alone."

Inspiration

For this endeavor, she works closely with Santagata, going to yarn and textile shows and visiting libraries and museums for fabric research. Inspiration can come from anywhere—an artwork, print or even old embroidery designs.

"Knitwear in Europe takes quite a high percentage of sales," says De la Rama-Santos. "Knitwear to them is like T-shirt to us. We've always hired European designers to create the fabric before the garment. In the UK, all manufacturers have their own design team to show to suppliers."

Several of these pieces were shown recently in a PROfil-organized private buyer's fashion show at the New Connaught Rooms in Covent Garden. The show was directed by local director Ariel Lozada and featured Paris-based model Joan Bitagcol and Eazel Don. Paris-based designer and fashion scholar Jojie Lloren was also flown in to help out in the show.

From London, the team will proceed to the World Apparel Market at the Brussels Exhibition Center where, says Reyes, "we'll be able to catch buyers who are not going to London."

Indeed, having their own show is one of the several baby steps GTEB and the Confederation of Garment Exporters are making in preparing the Philippines for a shifting global paradigm. "I'm really hoping people will come," says Reyes.

E-mail the author at chinachix@hotmail.com

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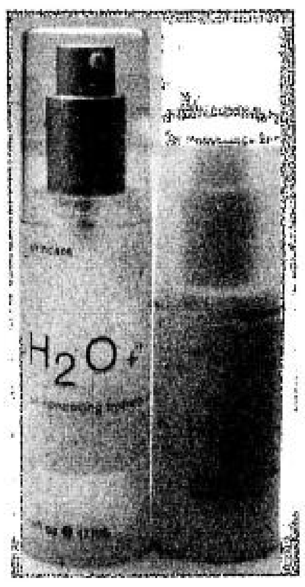

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Bus drivers on shabu

(From page C1)

thought it is this urgent and pervasive until I read the e-mail from many female readers wanting to know how they could learn more about self-defense and security driving especially at night.

Those interested in self-defense lessons are a diverse lot—from a 15-year-old who wants to learn taekwondo to a woman manager of a department store who feels great concern for her all-female staff who gets off work late at night. I'm e-mailing you, girls, the number and e-mail address of **Lara Sia** whose group is giving courses to women. I also learned that another group, the Emergency Resource Center, is devising a course for female drivers.

Accidentally I discovered that right in our corporate backyard, a committee led by former Secretary **Raffy Alunan** has come up with a very extensive Security Manual to be used during emergency. It is so thorough that it covers the workplace, the home and the daily commute—the latter should be really useful for female drivers. I'll inform the readers when and if they are willing to release it for greater public consumption.

Shop for the disabled

Still on the subject of safety and mobility, I came across **Laling Lim** who has just opened a unique shop meant to answer the needs of the physically impaired and senior citizens. Called Total Loving Care, it is selling gadgets and equipment the physically challenged can use to move around and enjoy life.

Stricken with polio when she was a child, which weakened her legs, Laling, who's now in her 50s, found a way to get rid of crutches which didn't suit a traveler like her. She discovered a motovator, a scooter-like vehicle, on a trip to California, and used it to enjoy the Palo Alto shopping mall. She didn't see why others like her couldn't enjoy the same mobility. That began her quest for similar gadgets and accessories that are otherwise not available here.

In her store, she has gathered a few, including a motorized wheelchair, flexi-furniture such as beds and recliners, a "Sitting Pretty" toilet seat raiser and bathroom aid, remote-control units for various electronic applications, even assorted magnifying glasses and hearing aids that isolate unwanted background noise.

Her store is at the corner of Quirino Avenue and Leon Guinto in Manila, beside the resto Lolo Dad's owned by the **Ayuyaos**, her relatives. Laling is the daughter of the late Gen. **Vicente Lim** and **Pilar Hidalgo Lim**.

Condolences

Two of my good friends lost a loved one last week. Papal awardee **Corazon Lumawig**, the mother of PR practitioner **Joy Buensalido**, died in her sleep last Monday. She was 86. It is Joy who always reminds me to make the most out of life with my folks who are getting on in years.

"They may not be with you for long," she tells me to make time for them. Joy had done just that—she not only looked after her mom, she also had the most endearing years with her.

Sophia Romero Schwartz had a sad homecoming last week from New York where she has been living for years now, enjoying a career as novelist, and life as wife to **Dan** and mother to **Eli** and **Amalya**. (Her first novel, "Always Hiding," was critically acclaimed in the US a few years ago.) She came home to be with her father, the famous conductor **Redentor Romero**, who had been fighting cancer for a year now.

Their last moments together in the hospital, she said, were not entirely sad. While he was barely conscious, she felt that he was still very much around—his hands continued to stir, albeit feebly, as if to some music. A conductor to the end. Sophia is looking for a place where she can display her father's rich memorabilia so that she may share it with the public.

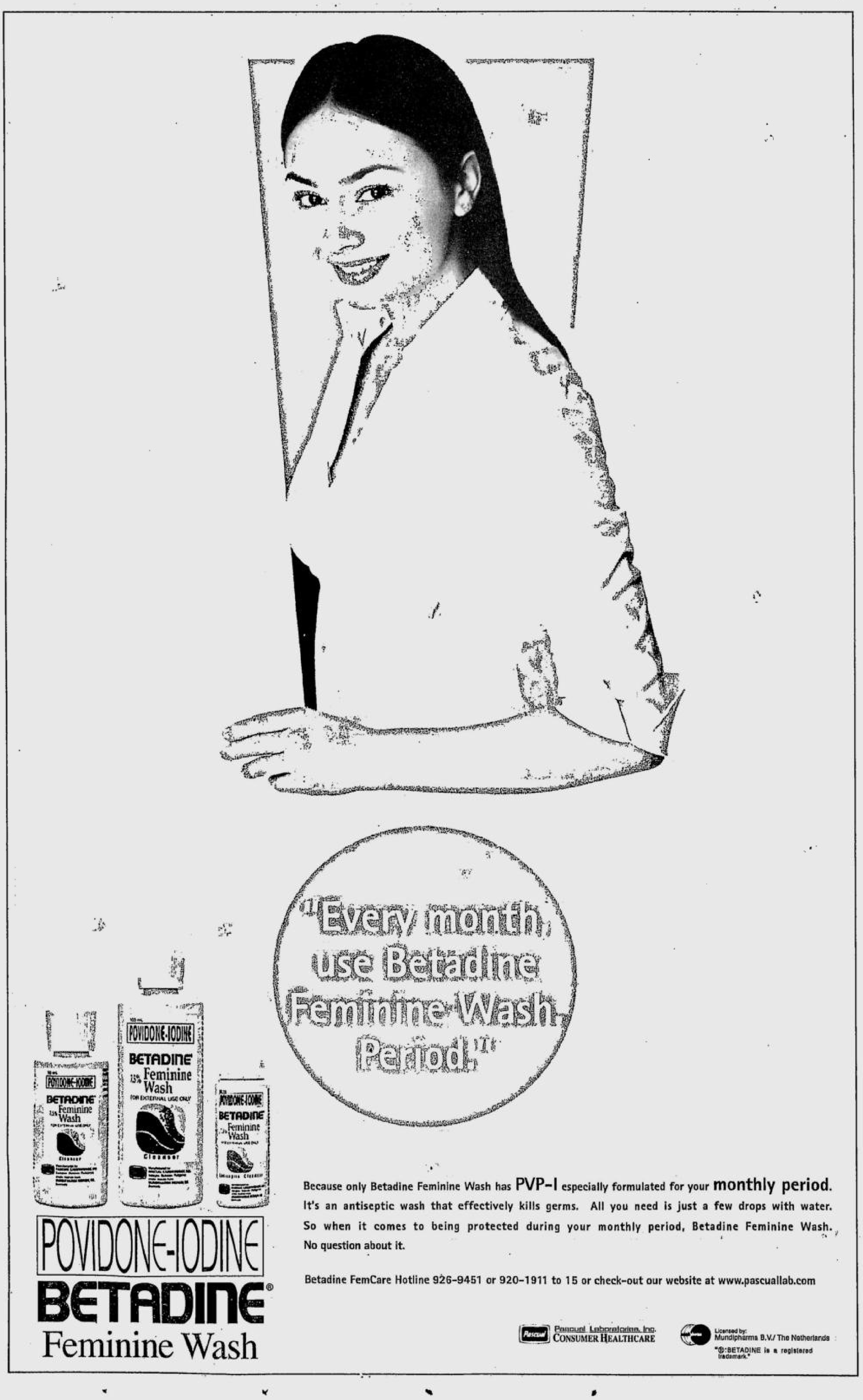
For your kids

Parents at a loss as to what creative past time they can provide their kids with this summer can check out the interesting workshops being offered by the Center for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra), a holistic community center in Quezon City.

For 6- to 12-year-olds, there's Dreamcraft—on art and movement to help kids explore their imagination, due to start April 19. Also for this age range, there's StrongMinds, an innovative training in mental calculation, focus and concentration, to start April 16.

For the older ones, there's 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens, to start April 28. For details, call 434-5381, or e-mail chacra@netgazer.com.ph.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph



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DECONSTRUCTING utilitarian clothes

Code name: Anonymous

By Donnie C. Ramirez

IT'S only politics. This Mare lady is finding out that performance is no guarantee to security of tenure. When she was appointed to head a minor and floundering government project, she put all her time and resources into the job. In the process, she was able to make the project viable and sustainable. Her performance was so scintillating that when a new administration took over, she was one of the few who kept her post. But it wasn't for long because she was given her walking papers.

She has no axe to grind with her replacement, who is indeed deserving and highly qualified. What our Mare friend finds sad and disappointing is how her sterling performance had been so ignominiously ignored. Well, that's politics for you!

His name is gratitude. Back when he was a nobody, this skyrocketing young heartthrob found a gentle (read: gay) patron who took care of his then simple needs, e.g., taxi money for those interminable and oftentimes unproductive VTRs and go-sees. Then at an A-List Makati bar, he met a well-connected talent manager who started him off to what is now a promising career.

Today, he earns enough to buy his own car and pay for his rent. Meanwhile, his former patron had gone to bad times, barely able to make both ends meet. With their situations reversed, the actor is showing his appreciation for past favors granted by giving his former patron financial help. In an industry where gratitude is only a word in the script, it is heartening to know that there are a few who do not forget the people who helped them along the way to the big time.

On with the wedding. Expect this much ballyhooed wedding to go on as smooth as silk, now that all the kinks have been ironed out. With the bride's parents long separated, people are curious to see who will walk her to the altar. Will it be her blood father, or will it be her stepfather?

It's a no-brainer, says an insider. It's the real Dad who'll give her away. The real father and stepfather have known each other for a long time. They may not be the closest of friends, but they are both gentlemen and socially correct. Let the church bells ring!

Different but interesting. The A-to-Z (for Anonymous to Zed) fashion show held at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio delivered some eye-popping surprises and plenty of shock waves. Billed as the first big fashion event of the season, the show presented an anachronistic—and definitely unusual—interpretation of the deconstructed look. Some may find it bizarre, but to most, it was a brave and daring and quite innovative approach to fashion.

The three fully made-up mermaids (mermen?) cavorting on a round stage at the foyer of the Tent set the mood for the show. Then after the cocktails and hors d'oeuvres served by bar hosts Venezia, Stars Bar and Dining, Club Spoon and Strike Zone, the guests were ushered in to the main hall where a huge semicircular stage with luminous acid green runway had been set up. Two gigantic wide screens flanked both sides of the stage, flashing words and images associated with Anonymous, then finally freezing with larger-than-life visuals of Anonymous image models Rizza Samson and Paolo Cabalfin.

As the show unfolded, it became obvious that the concept was not merely meant to shock and surprise, but to show how Anonymous dresses can be interpreted in different perspectives. Maverick stylists Michael Salientes, Melissa La'O and Iñigo Elizalde made sure that this point is not lost in the audience. Since it opened in 1998, Anonymous, which is owned by fashion royalty couple Ricco and Tina Ocampo, has always been known to carry basic but hip clothes tagged at prices too good to be true. Salientes and his posse took this as an opportunity to deconstruct—ripping a sleeve here, tearing a pants leg there, then mixing and matching them with hip accessories and ornaments.

Adding a witty touch were the models. Director Ariel Lozada, who is known to experiment on and test new concepts in fashion choreography, assembled a curious cast of professional models, transvestites, overweight yuppies and blue-collar types to dramatize the hip and unorthodox concept of deconstruction. The end-results may not be appreciated by everyone, but they certainly were interesting.

Duty-free store holds sale till April 15

TAKE a fashion trip down Duty Free Philippines' Fashion Walk's ongoing "End of Season Sale." Until April 15, shoppers can enjoy up to 75-percent discounts on prestigious fashion brands.

For men who travel, leathergoods and traveling accessories from Kenneth Cole, Perry Ellis, Goldpfeil, DKNY, Clifton, Delsey and Hobo Bags are available to compliment their cosmopolitan taste.

Further down the Walk's extensive footwear selection that includes Bruno Magli, Nine West, Enzo Angiolini, Naturalizer and Bally, men can find the perfect fit for their business or leisure trips.

Strike a bargain with the store's assorted ties from Lanvin, Celine, Givenchy and Nina Ricci and fashionable watches from Guy Laroche and Charles Jourdan available all on discounts.

From casuals to eyewear, shoes and bags, they can choose from among prestigious brands such as Paco Rabanne, Lancel, Etienne Aigner, Burberry, Elle, Kipling, Escada, Dolce & Gabanna, as well as items from French and Italian brands such as Sequoia, Dimoni, Rocobarocco, Rodo and Longchamp.

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August 24, 2001	July 15 - August 15,2001	P2,000	30	30
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August 24, 2001	March 15 - August15, 2001	₱10,000	15	15
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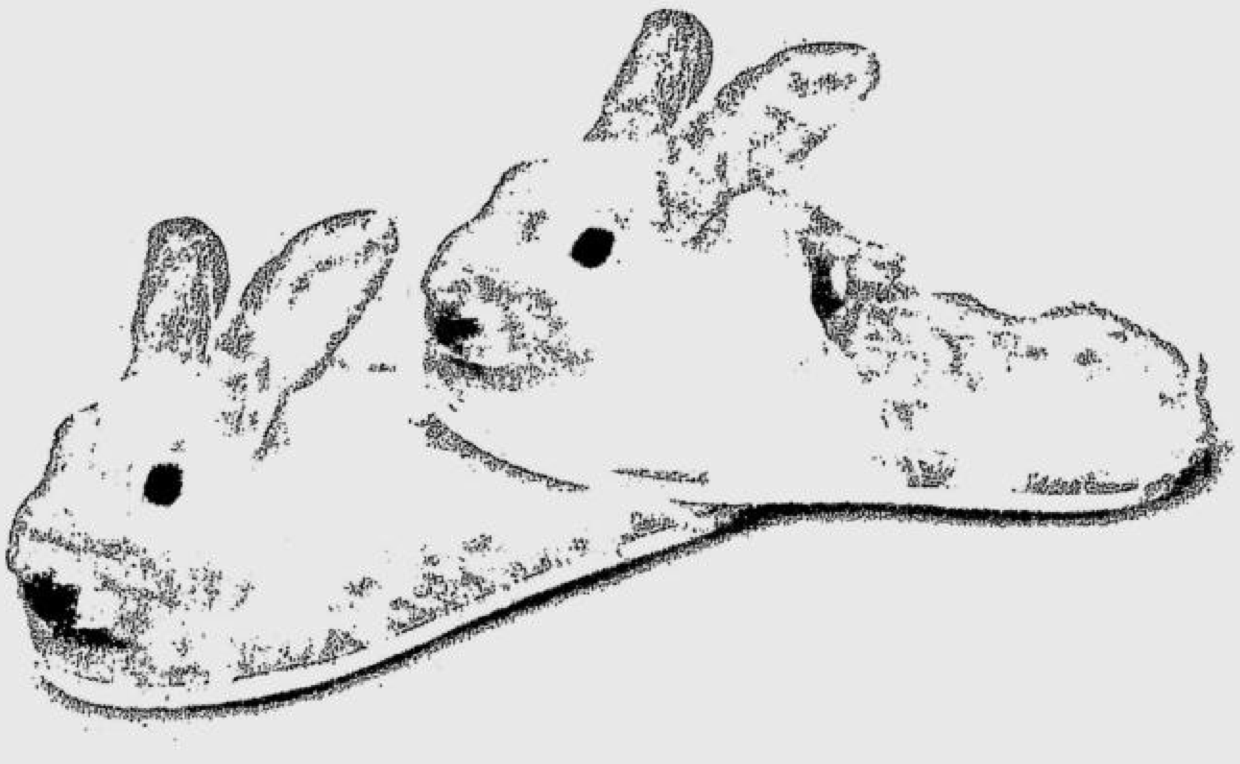

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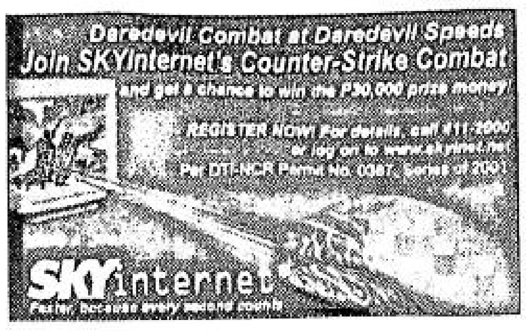
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Making the floral penchant into a holistic lifestyle

(Story on page D2)

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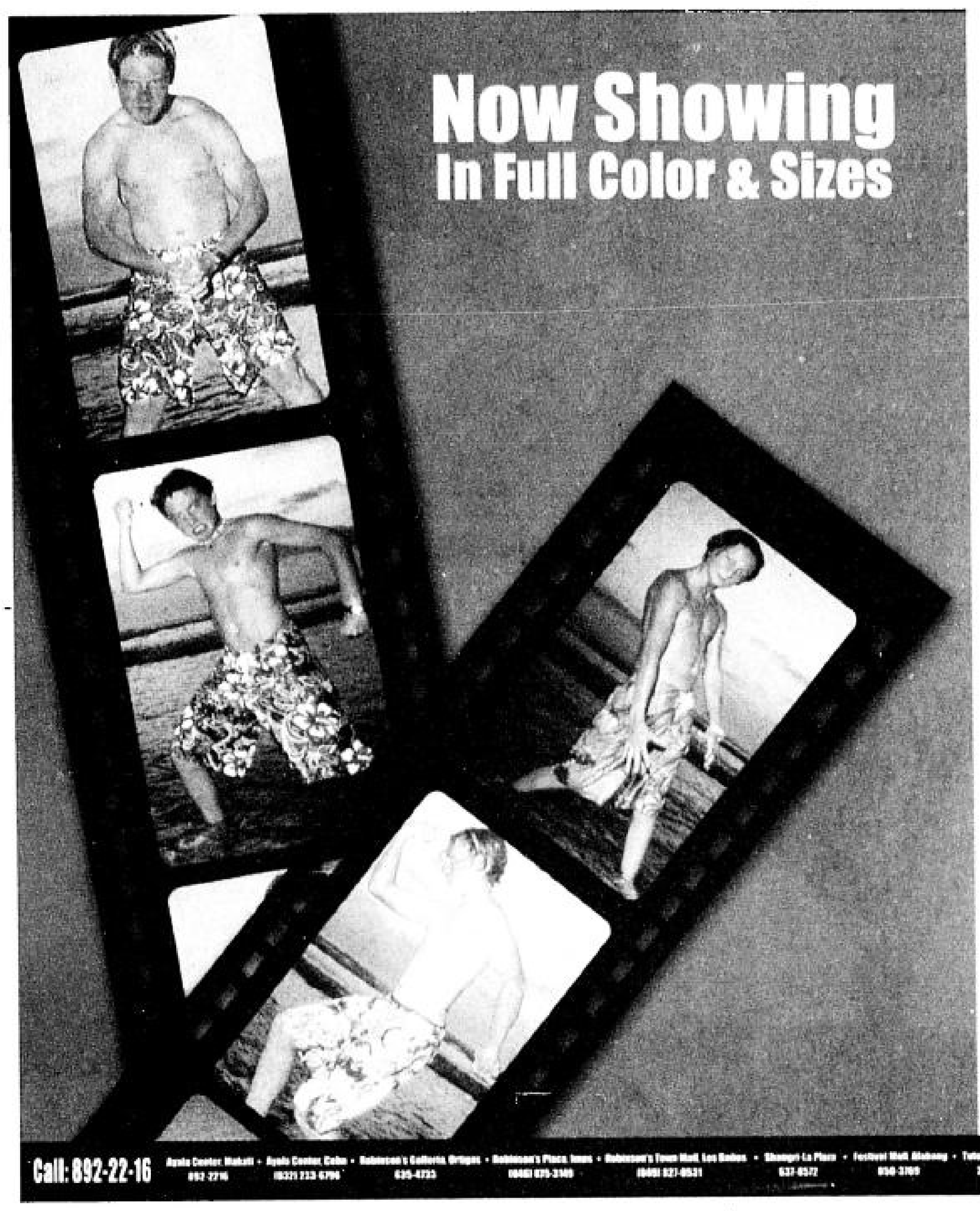

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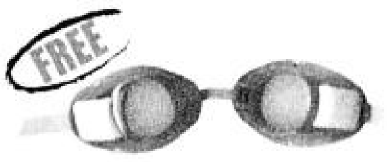

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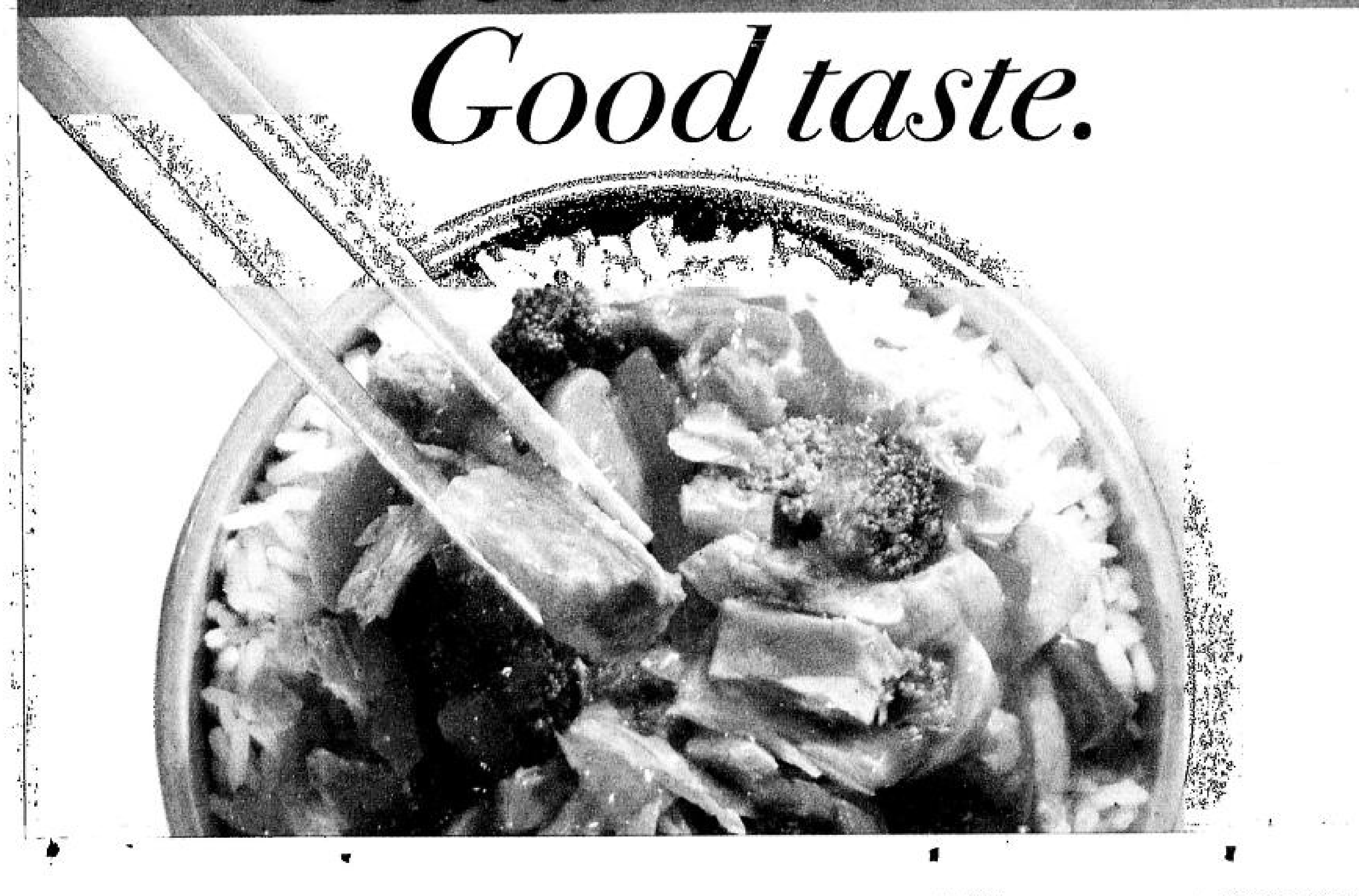
Good taste.



Tuna Broccoli in Oyster Sauce

Ingredients:

1	teaspoon	ginger, chopped
1	teaspoon	garlic, chopped
1/2	cup	sliced mushrooms
1/2	cup	red bell pepper, strips
1	184 g can	CENTURY TUNA CHUNKS IN OIL, drained
2	cups	broccoli, cut up
2	tablespoons	oyster sauce
2	tablespoons	sugar
1 1/2	tablespoons	cornstarch
1/4	cup	water
	few drops	sesame oil

Procedure:

In a pan, heat oil from tuna, sauté ginger and garlic. Add mushrooms and red pepper. Add tuna and toss in broccoli. Cook for two minutes. Mix together oyster sauce, sugar, cornstarch, water, and sesame oil. Pour mixture into the broccoli and mix gently. Cook for another minute, serve hot. Makes 4 servings.

For more delicious and healthy recipes, write to:
CENTURY TUNA CULINARY CLUB
#7 Unit 102 East Capitol Building, East Capitol Drive
Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City • Tel. No. (02)746-8737
E-mail: www.centtk@info.com.ph

Making the floral penchant into a holistic lifestyle

By Tita V. Giron
Photos by Bobot Meru

Rustan's Flower Shop has gone beyond arrangements to branch out to flowerscaping consultations, gift items and cute accessories

THOSE who have come to know the brand of flower arrangements Rustan's Flower Shop is known for will not be surprised at the array of new services it offers today. As old-time customers know, it has gone far beyond making flower arrangements for all occasions and functions, which was the main business for years since it opened about 25 years ago.

Now they also do interior flowerscaping and consultations for residences and business establishments. What is even more interesting is the expanding line of flower-related accessories and gift items available at the seven-or-so branches in Metro Manila and Cebu. There are books that include feel-good titles and how-to-arrange flowers. Other items that count are the teddy bears, small granny picture frames, garden items and the unbelievable assortment of candles.

If the flower shop was popular for its cute vases and accessories that were worth keeping and reusing, its wide assortment of scented candles is now becoming as popular, particularly the aromatherapy candles.

One of a kind

"We have come a long way since the flower shop started more than 25 years ago," president and managing director Menchu Tantoco-Lopez told us. New concepts of flower arrangement, flower-related services and gift item ideas have been added on since she and her aunt, Nena Tantoco, took over management from her late mother, Gliceria Tantoco.

What she failed to mention was the fact that the flower shop was the first one-of-its-kind to open in a department store.

So that friends and business associates can actually experience the brand of services offered by the flower shop today, Tantoco-Lopez arranged a three-series intimate lunch and tête-à-tête at a condominium in Rockwell. We were in the first group.

Intimate lunch

The dinner table was an actual presentation of Rustan's style of flower arrangement for an intimate lunch. Scented candles were lit. Glass vases were decked with fern leaves and broccoli flowers. Each napkin ring wore a silk rose. At the far end of the receiving room was a live string quartet playing soft music.

Seated around the table were Grace Go, Millet Mananquil, Glenda Barretto, Patis Tesoro, events organizer Gigi Bautista, interior designer Sylvia Lopez, Tantoco-Lopez and her officers, Zenas Pineda and Apple Lopez.

Between the constant change of dishes prepared by the chef of Power Lunch, Gracie Go told stories about her recent sortie to Sydney with Jullie Yap Daza and Lifestyle Asia editor Emmie Velarde. Then the table talk shifted to flowers, and veered to the naughty text messages everyone seems to be getting on the cellular phones these days.

As wine flowed when the main course was served, Lopez let it slip that Rustan's is right now deep in the preparations for a one-stop flower and garden shop in Makati. It will be a flower shop to talk about, she added. It will occupy 1,000 sq m. There will be a conservatory with a tropical garden, a coffee shop, a gift shop, a cold flower storage and many more.

"Everything is still under wraps," Tantoco-Lopez whispered.

A tour of the flower-decked rooms followed after lunch. First stop, the master bedroom was stark simple, and so were flower arrangements that combined fresh and artificial materials. Rose petals and lighted frog candles floated on the bathtub at the adjoining bathroom.

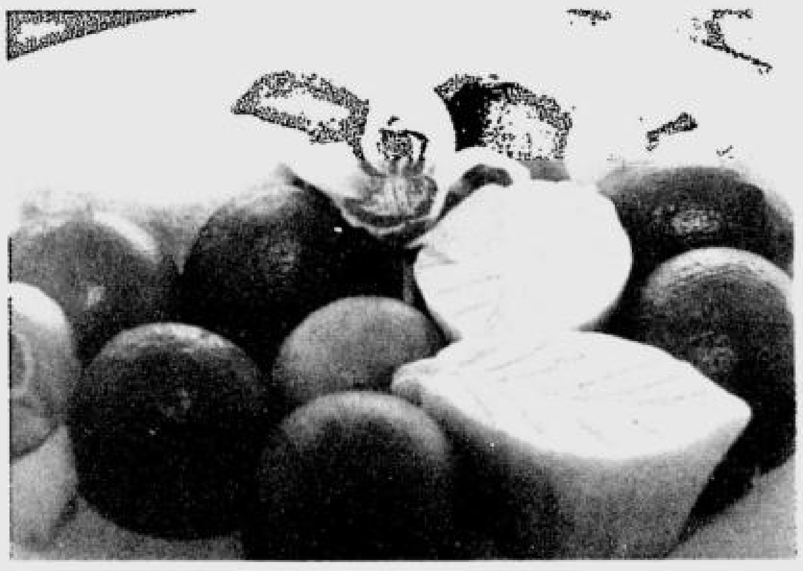
"It is Japanese-inspired marked by simple, clear lines," Zenas explained. She is the head of product development and creative designer.

All the rooms were decked in Rustan's items plus pickings from Menchu's private collection. All other décors were samples of products available at the flower shops like tabletop water fountains, figurines, stones and pebbles. There were red tulips, white Holland lilies, wax flowers, roses, curly willow twigs, misty blue flowers, and more.

There's no doubt that after all these years, Rustan's Flower Shop has not run out of new ideas. Expect more brilliant ideas as the new flower shop opens soon. It will be another first-ever like the first flower shop in a department store pioneered 25 years ago by Rustan's late matriarch Gliceria Tantoco.

BROCCOLI flowers and purple statice for dinner setting

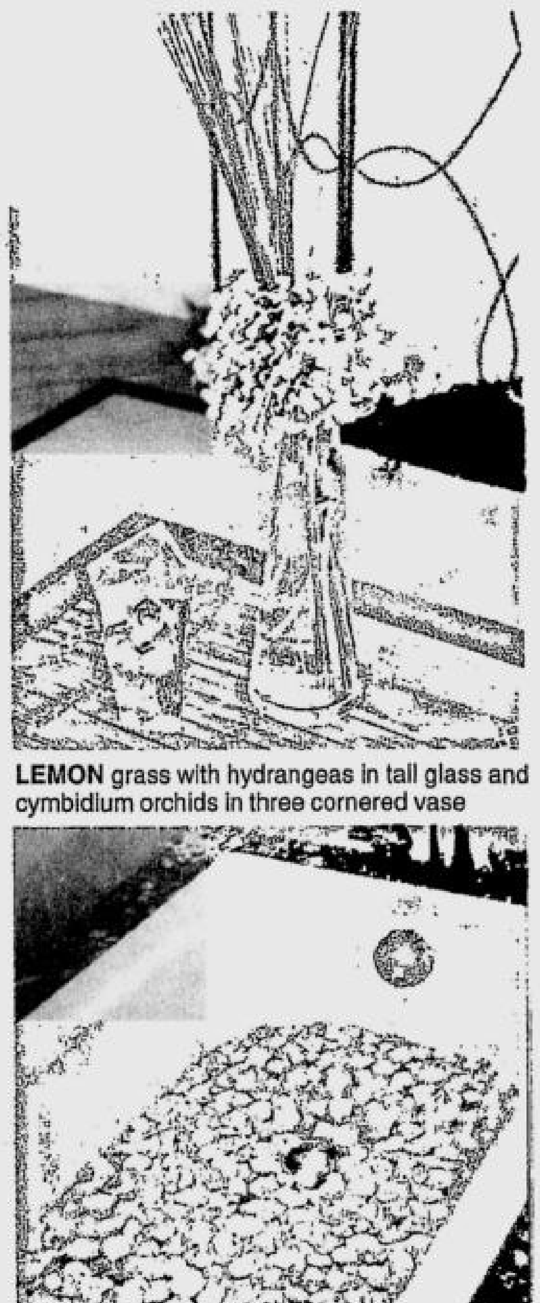
FLOWERS fit for clear glass vases, purple tulips, wax flowers and curly willow

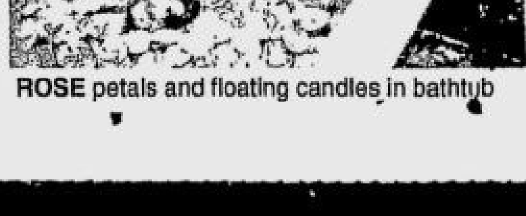

CITRUS, cymbidium orchids and candles

CURLY willow twigs in the master bedroom

MINIMALIST floral arrangement for Japanese-inspired bedroom

HOLLAND lilies and *formosa* leaves


LEMON grass with hydrangeas in tall glass and cymbidium orchids in three cornered vase


ROSE petals and floating candles in bathtub

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The right man is a good friend

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm 18 years old. I have had suitor but I never paid any attention to them because I felt they were not right for me.

Quite unexpectedly, I fell in love with one of my friends, maybe because I found in him the characteristics I was looking for in a guy. He's such a gentleman and a caring person. I tried to suppress my feelings, but to no avail. I cannot tell him how I feel because it might destroy our friendship. Also, I'm afraid he might try to avoid me if I tell him how I feel.

Please help me. I don't know if I should avoid him so that my feelings for him will disappear, but then I don't want that to happen because he is such a good friend. Also, I won't know how to explain to him why I'm avoiding him. What should I do?

MADZ

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

Are you studying in the same school? If he turns to you for an occasional chat, does he also give equal attention to other girls? If he does, then he is just a friendly young man, with no serious intentions at the moment. If you try to avoid him, he might not even notice it.

However, if he clearly often singles you out and, as you stated, he is a caring person, there is a chance he is interested in you. But if he never flirts and just carries on a casual conversation, then his mind is just focused on what he has to do each day. Romance is absolutely out of the question.

A girl should not be the first to declare affection. Just be a charming, gracious friend. Men prefer to do the courting. You are correct—if you tell him how you feel he may keep his distance to prevent complications.

For now, keep cool and let him seek your company. You could try to avoid the places where you meet to test him. You see, distance makes the heart grow fonder. However, if he does not take the trouble to look for you, accept the truth. He is just a friend, not a future boyfriend. The truth hurts, my dear, but it would be better, compared to chasing him and seeing him run away.

Her sister loves to quarrel

I'M 18 years old. I have a sister (one year younger) who always teases me for not having any suitors. What I hate about her is that she is stubborn and arrogant. She makes fun of me and says words that hurt my feelings. She has many suitors and that's probably why she teases me.

She is pretty compared to me, even smarter, and has a high self-esteem. She yells at me and calls me a coward because I don't fight back. I just hold my temper because I don't want my roommates to call us childish and to tell us we are not related to each other. I'm not hot-tempered but she provokes me.

My problem is, I cannot handle the situation. What should I do? Should I remain quiet and not tell her I'm fed up with her arrogance? What should I do to make us closer?

Thank you. God bless and more power.

ATHENA

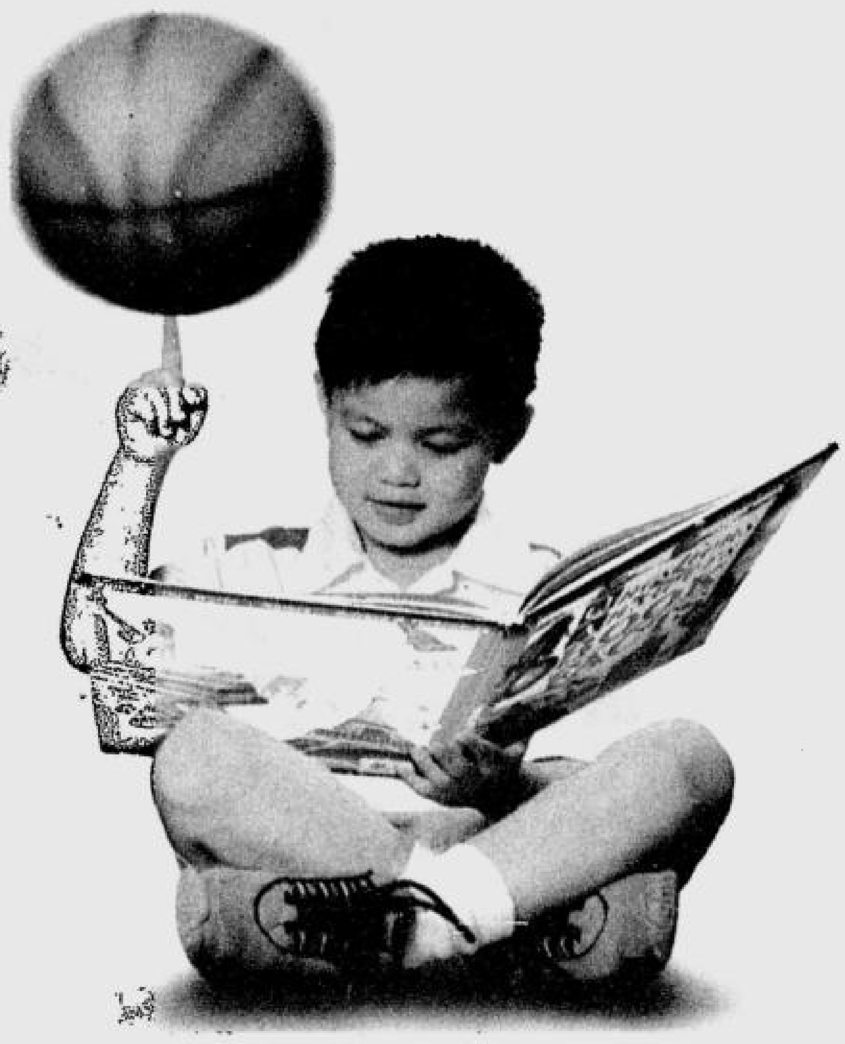
Just keep in mind that the one who keeps quiet during a quarrel is the better educated. I suppose you live in a dormitory since you mention you have roommates. During a quiet night, tell them you are really hurt by the way your sister acts and ask them for advice. That way, they will sympathize with you.

Your sister needs counseling. Something must have happened in the past to cause that abnormal behavior. Both of you are still in your teens. Your parents should be informed about what is happening. However, tell them to keep it in confidence first while you try to iron out the problem just between the two of you. It will soon be summer break and it will be easy to find the right time to have a heart-to-heart talk with your sister. Tell her you love her and admire her, and then ask her to explain why she is short-tempered with you. If she screams her answer, give up. Let her be.

For Easter, give her a book. Go to a bookstore and look for one that can give spiritual guidance. Just remember that God moves in mysterious ways.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI; Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

SOON, YOUR KID CAN HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS!



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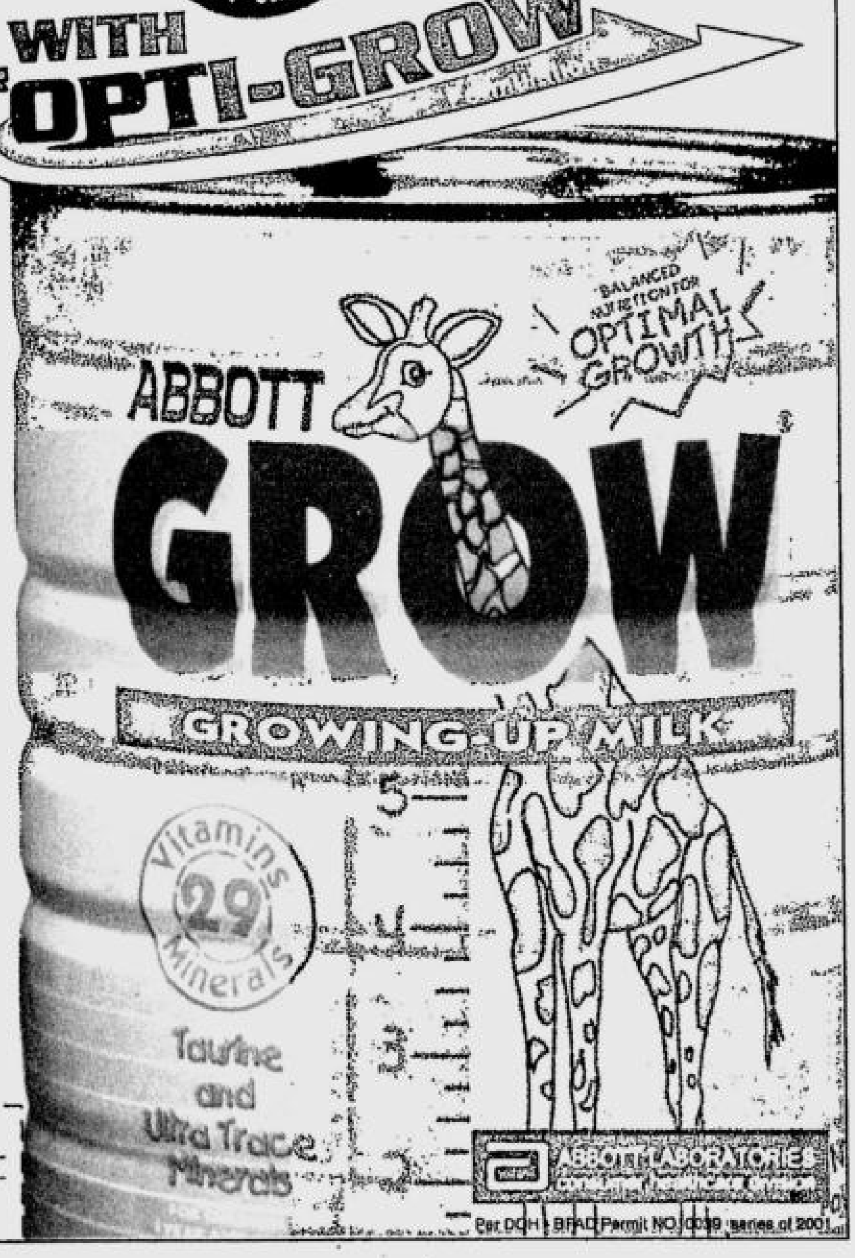
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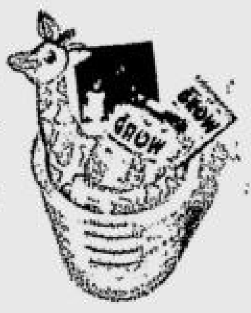

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2.Filled-out coupon (from newspaper ad clipping/ leaflet).

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2. FREE Abbott GROW inflatable toy.
3. FREE Nutritional Assessment via Fil-Anthrop computer program.
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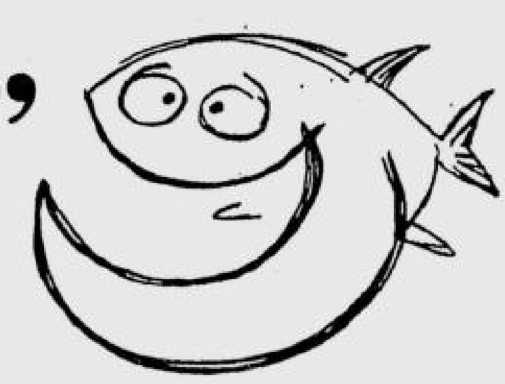
March 23-25 • March 30-April 1, 2001

Please fill out this coupon and submit to the "Switch & Swap" Booth:
Name of Child: ____________ Name of Parent/Guardian: ____________
Address: ____________ Gender: ____________
Birthdate: ____________ Weight: ____________ kgs.
Phone No.: ____________ Height: ____________ cms.

"Mapa-panga-nga ka sa sarap!"



"Aaaaahhh!" Namnamin ang lutong Ilonggo Grill. Mamangha sa lasa ng pinapangarap na panga, kansi, kadios, inihaw na hito, seafood inasal, malasugi, crablets, inihaw na pusit, rellenong bangus, Bacolod ixpress, pansit molo at siyempre pa oooohhh….ang blockbuster na Batchoy! Ang lahat nang ito, dagdag pang sabaw at sarsa at init at amoy…naku po! Kaya tikman ninyo lahat, araw-arawin dapat. Kaon na sa Ilonggo Grill!

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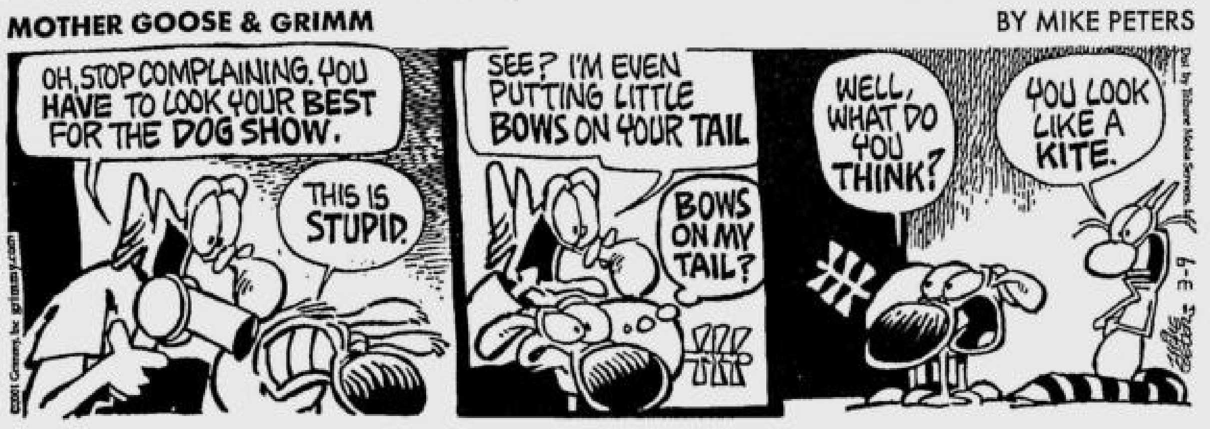
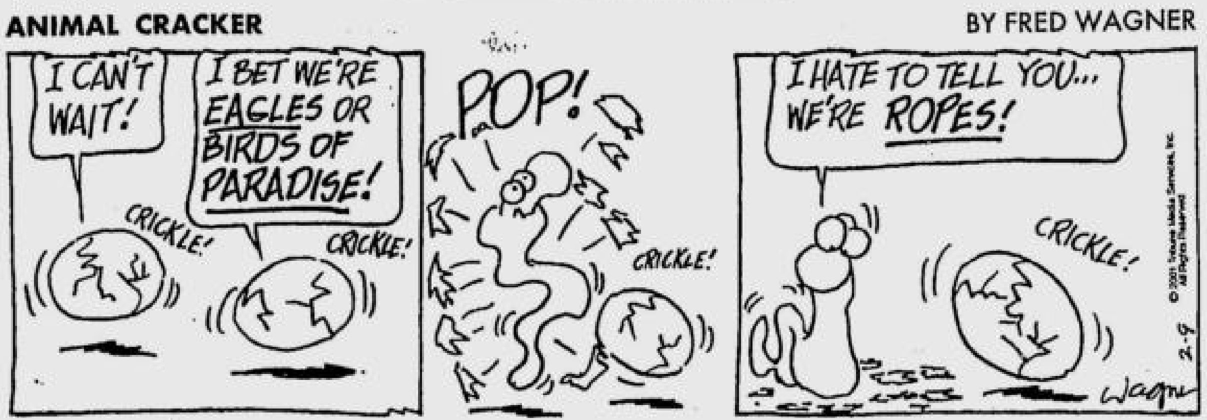
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OH, STOP COMPLAINING. YOU HAVE TO LOOK YOUR BEST FOR THE DOG SHOW.
THIS IS STUPID.
SEE? I'M EVEN PUTTING LITTLE BOWS ON YOUR TAIL
BOWS ON MY TAIL?
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU LOOK LIKE A KITE.
3-9

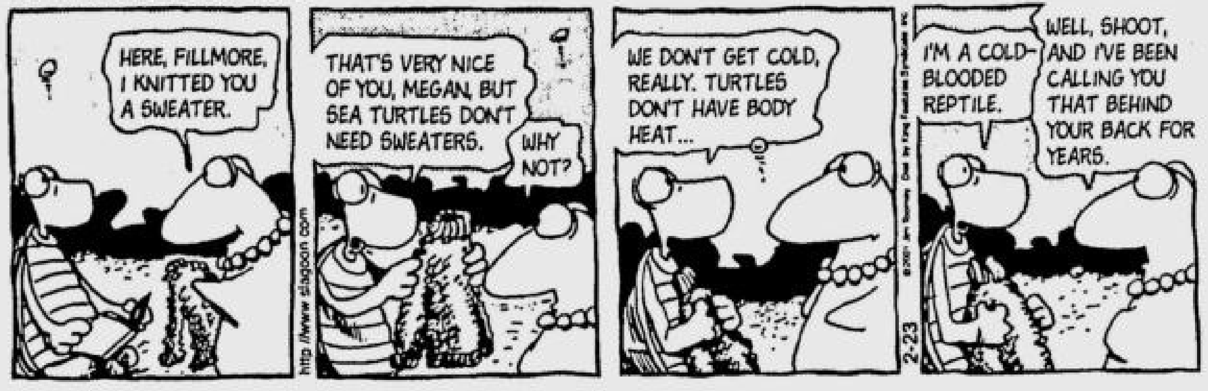
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I CAN'T WAIT!
I BET WE'RE EAGLES OR BIRDS OF PARADISE!
CRICKLE!
CRICKLE!
POP!
CRICKLE!
I HATE TO TELL YOU... WE'RE ROPES!
CRICKLE!
2-9
Wagner

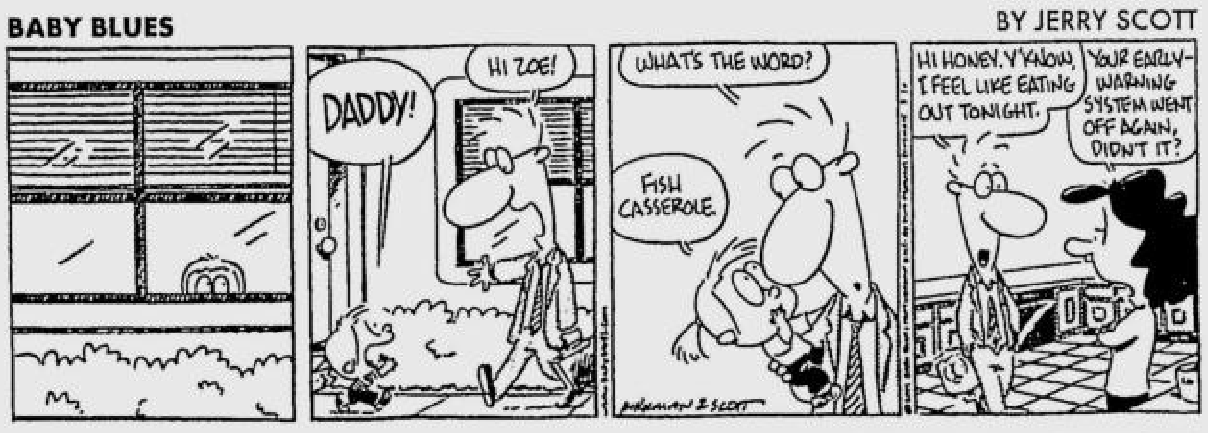
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HERE, FILLMORE, I KNITTED YOU A SWEATER.
THAT'S VERY NICE OF YOU, MEGAN, BUT SEA TURTLES DON'T NEED SWEATERS.
WHY NOT?
WE DON'T GET COLD, REALLY. TURTLES DON'T HAVE BODY HEAT...
I'M A COLD-BLOODED REPTILE.
WELL, SHOOT, AND I'VE BEEN CALLING YOU THAT BEHIND YOUR BACK FOR YEARS.
http://www.slagoon.com
2-23

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY!
HI ZOE!
WHAT'S THE WORD?
FISH CASSEROLE.
HI HONEY. Y'KNOW, I FEEL LIKE EATING OUT TONIGHT.
YOUR EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM WENT OFF AGAIN, DIDN'T IT?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Merle Haggard, Billy Dee Williams, Michelle Phillips, Marilu Henner, Candace Cameron

Happy Birthday: Don't look back this year. You must focus on your future and all that you want to accomplish. It's time to put an end to projects that are going nowhere fast and focus all your time and efforts on the most opportune pursuits. You have plenty to offer any group that you join and should consider stepping up to the podium and taking the lead. Your numbers: 5, 13, 22, 24, 35, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take the time to do a good job. Your boss will appreciate your efforts. Get out socially with colleagues. You'll find out a lot if you're observant. Secret information can be revealed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You are likely to over-extend yourself if you take on major renovations at home. Try to do the work yourself. Others may try to dump their responsibilities on you. Be prepared to say no.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your loved ones will be angry if you spend too much of your time gallivanting with friends. Make sure you take care of your chores before you take off. Residential moves will be beneficial.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't spend too much on entertainment or travel. Someone you work with may try to make you look bad. Be ready to defend yourself. Make sure you did your work properly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be taken in financially by a "get rich quick" scheme that doesn't hold water. Run your ideas past those in a position to give you honest and valid advice. It's better to be safe than sorry.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be uncertain about your personal life. Your attitudes and opinions are changing and re-evaluation is necessary. Don't allow your mate to blame you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Secret activities will be most disconcerting. You can find out factual information if you feel it's necessary. Stay calm and decide what action is best to take. Don't be too quick to judge.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You need some time and space to go over your concerns. Study your motives and decide if your reasons for doing things are justified.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Exaggeration will get you into trouble. Your version of the situation that your friends are experiencing will be hurtful and probably wrong. You must be sensitive to other people's feelings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be attracted to creative endeavors. Get involved in groups that can help you develop your interest. Someone you meet will capture your heart. Don't be afraid to start something new.

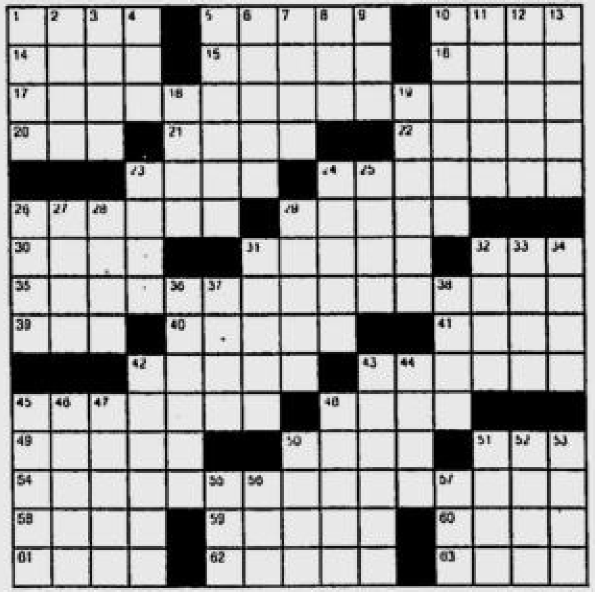
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your ideas into motion. You could have a real moneymaker on your hands if you play your cards right. Look for legitimate investors who believe in you and your ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Problems with lovers will continue to mount if you have been avoiding the issues at hand or using emotional blackmail. Your lack of attention to your mate has contributed to your problems.

Birthday Baby: You have a strong and stable way of handling any situation. You will find yourself in a lead position of any group that you join throughout life. You are a doer who cares and who always makes an honest effort.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

2/21/01

ACROSS
1 Harnessed group
5 Swampy stretch
10 Dryer trappings
14 Ambiance
15 Fills the hold
16 On a cruise
17 Edge of the abyss
20 Grassy ground
21 Makes a choice
22 African grassland
23 Swabbing tools
24 Noblewoman
26 Disney film, "__ Friday"
29 Works for
30 A piece of cake
31 Piece of parsley
32 Surprising shout
35 Hint of much more
39 Whatever
40 Ancient harps
41 Stagger
42 Vatican VIPs
43 Daniel DeFoe hero
45 Small songbird
48 Close up
49 Quibble
50 Exposed
51 Status __
54 Last chance for second thoughts
58 Man or Dogs
59 Chopper feature
60 Broad
61 Title paper
62 Hard, dark wood
63 Musical composition

DOWN
1 Bar bills
2 Continental currency
3 Saharan
4 Fellow
5 Slapdash
6 Floats through the air
7 Tacks on
8 Ring of flowers
9 Snaky shape
10 Light beams
11 Pita fiber
12 Requirements
13 Small pies
18 Weirdo
19 Retaliate
23 BLT addition
24 City on the Seine
25 Clapton or Ambler
26 Greek cheese
27 Wet forecast
28 Catch sight of
29 Dueling weapons
31 Shakespeare's Kate, e.g.
32 Social buzzers
33 Sandwich cookie
34 Eye amorously
36 Broccoli top
37 Keyboard goof
38 Champagne description
42 Cut back
43 Strong red shade
44 Old Norse character
45 Tasty
46 Ordinary language
47 Nimble
48 Eating utensil
50 Aware of
51 Wisecrack
52 Pakistani language
53 Individuals
55 Mineral deposit
56 Watch accessory
57 A pair

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

G	A	S	P	S	■	W	O	M	B	■	B	U	S	S
I	L	E	A	C	■	O	V	E	R	■	A	N	A	T
N	E	R	D	Y	■	L	A	T	E	■	E	D	D	A
■	C	A	U	L	I	F	L	O	W	E	R	E	A	R
■	■	■	A	L	L	■	■	O	E	R	■	R	T	E
T	A	P	■	A	G	E	D	■	R	I	D	S	■	■
A	L	A	I	■	W	R	A	P	■	E	A	T	E	R
C	O	R	N	H	U	S	K	E	R	S	T	A	T	E
T	E	T	R	A	■	T	A	T	E	■	A	N	T	I
■	■	N	E	I	L	■	R	E	A	M	■	D	A	D
A	V	E	■	T	E	A	■	■	L	A	S	■	■	■
B	A	R	K	I	N	G	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	■
O	L	I	N	■	G	R	I	N	■	L	I	N	E	N
D	I	N	E	■	T	E	E	D	■	E	M	C	E	E
E	D	G	E	■	H	E	R	O	■	S	P	A	D	E

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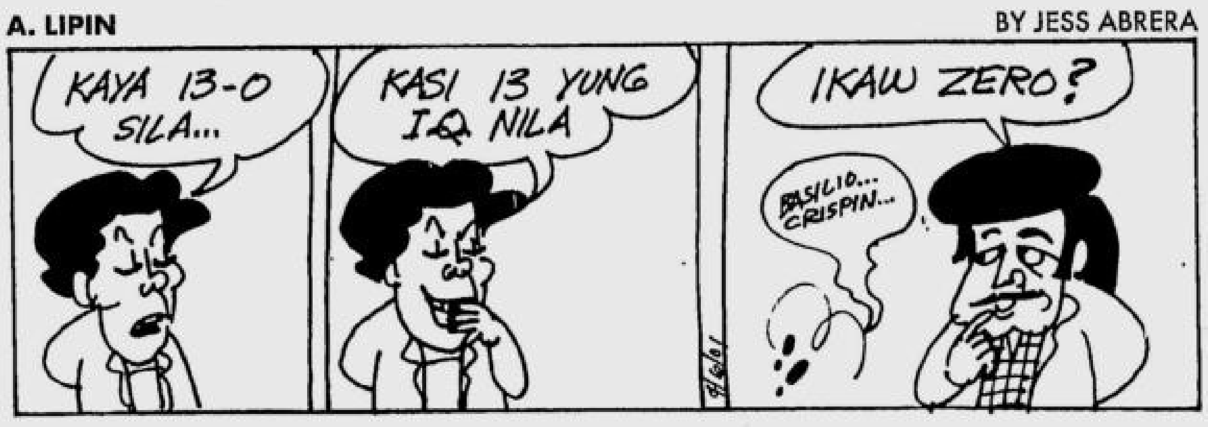
2/21/01

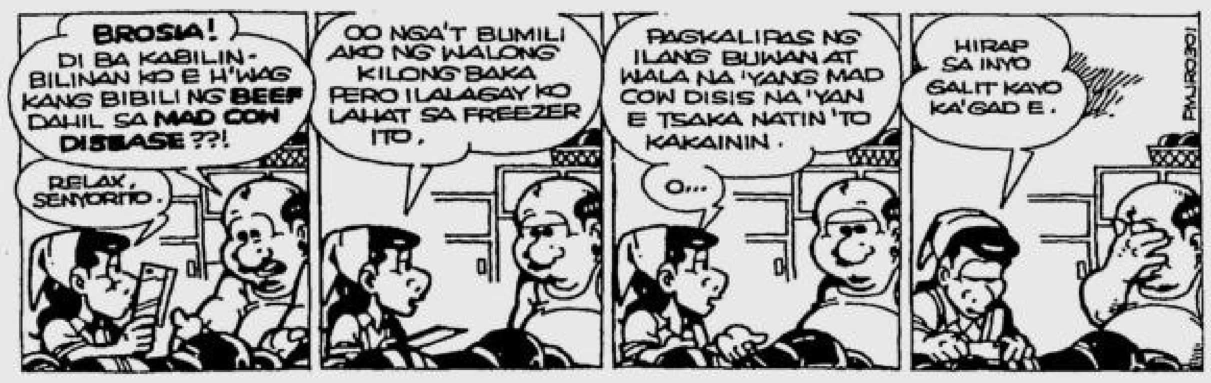
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAYA 13-0 SILA...
KASI 13 YUNG I.Q. NILA
IKAW ZERO?
BASILIO... CRISPIN...

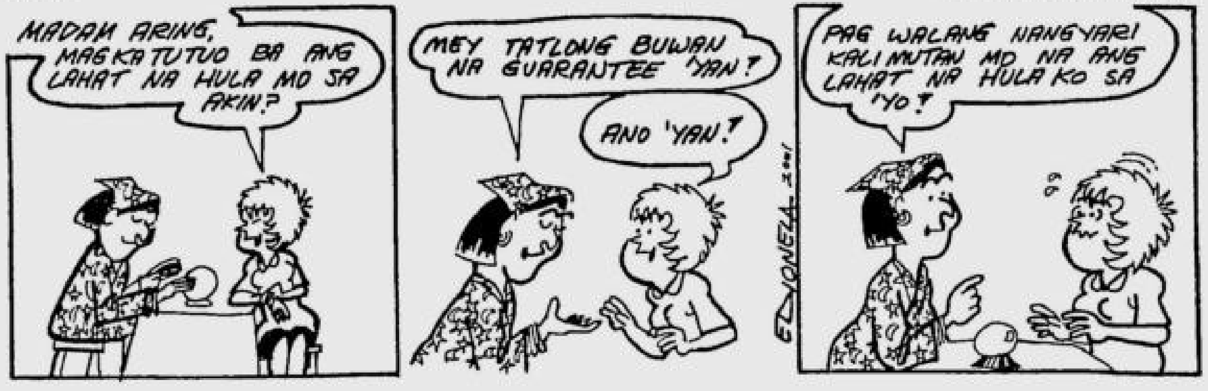
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BROSIA! DI BA KABILIN-BILINAN KO E H'WAG KANG BIBILI NG BEEF DAHIL SA MAD COW DISEASE??!
RELAX, SENYORITO.
OO NGA'T BUMILI AKO NG WALONG KILONG BAKA PERO ILALAGAY KO LAHAT SA FREEZER ITO.
PAGKALIPAS NG ILANG BUWAN AT WALA NA 'YANG MAD COW DISIS NA 'YAN E TSAKA NATIN 'TO KAKAININ.
O...
HIRAP SA INYO GALIT KAYO KA'GAD E.
PMJR0301

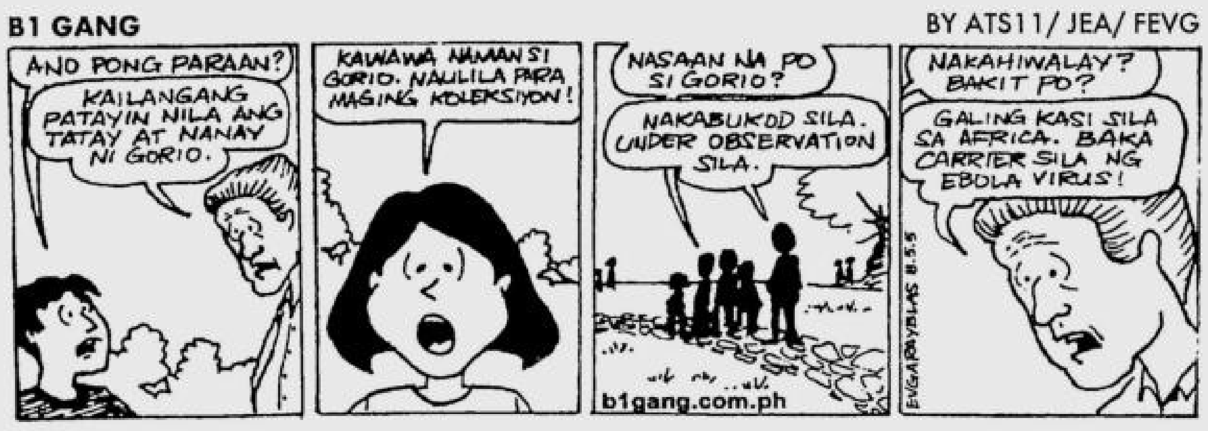
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MADAM ARING, MAGKATUTUO BA ANG LAHAT NA HULA MO SA AKIN?
MEY TATLONG BUWAN NA GUARANTEE 'YAN!
ANO 'YAN?
PAG WALANG NANGYARI KALIMUTAN MO NA ANG LAHAT NA HULA KO SA 'YO!
EDIONELA 2001

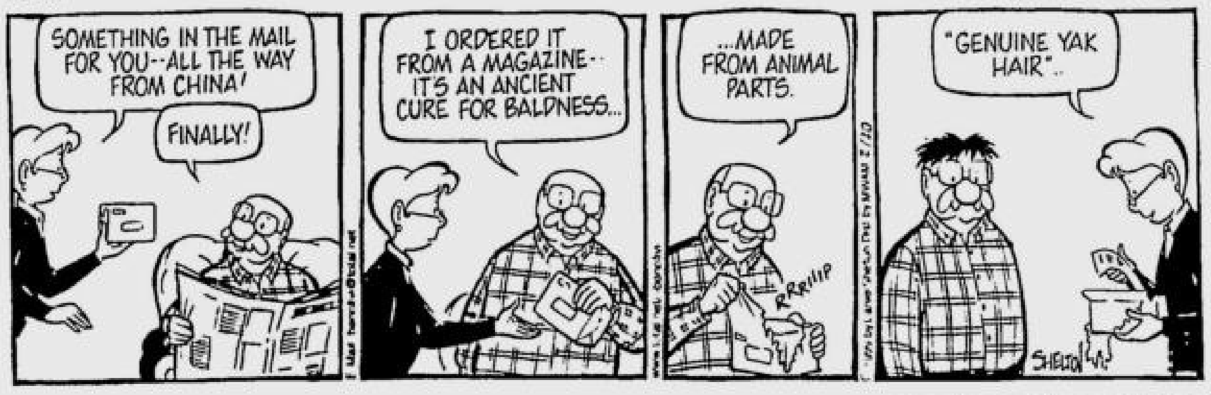
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


ANO PONG PARAAN?
KAILANGANG PATAYIN NILA ANG TATAY AT NANAY NI GORIO.
KAWAWA NAMAN SI GORIO. NAULILA PARA MAGING KOLEKSIYON!
NASAAN NA PO SI GORIO?
NAKABUKOD SILA. UNDER OBSERVATION SILA.
b1gang.com.ph
NAKAHIWALAY? BAKIT PO?
GALING KASI SILA SA AFRICA. BAKA CARRIER SILA NG EBOLA VIRUS!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.5.5

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SOMETHING IN THE MAIL FOR YOU--ALL THE WAY FROM CHINA!
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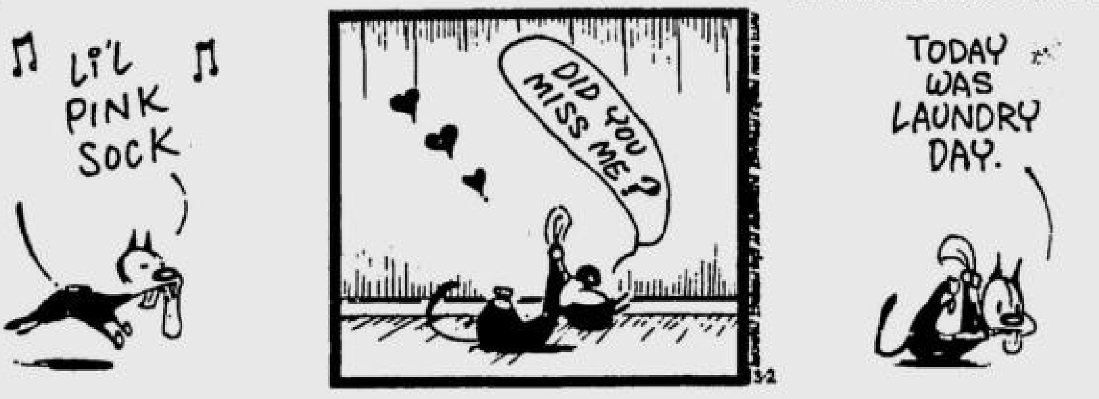
...MADE FROM ANIMAL PARTS.
RRRIIP
"GENUINE YAK HAIR"..
SHELTON

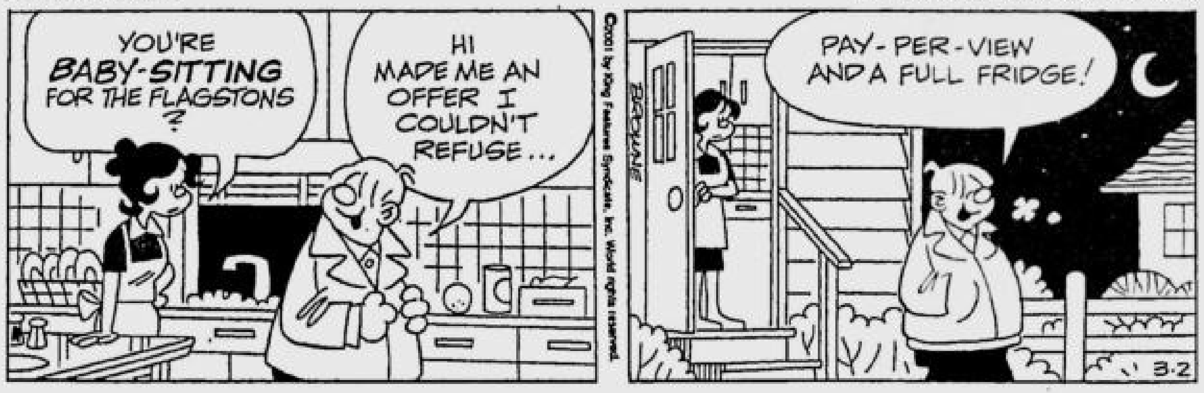
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LI'L PINK SOCK
DID YOU MISS ME?
TODAY WAS LAUNDRY DAY.
3-2

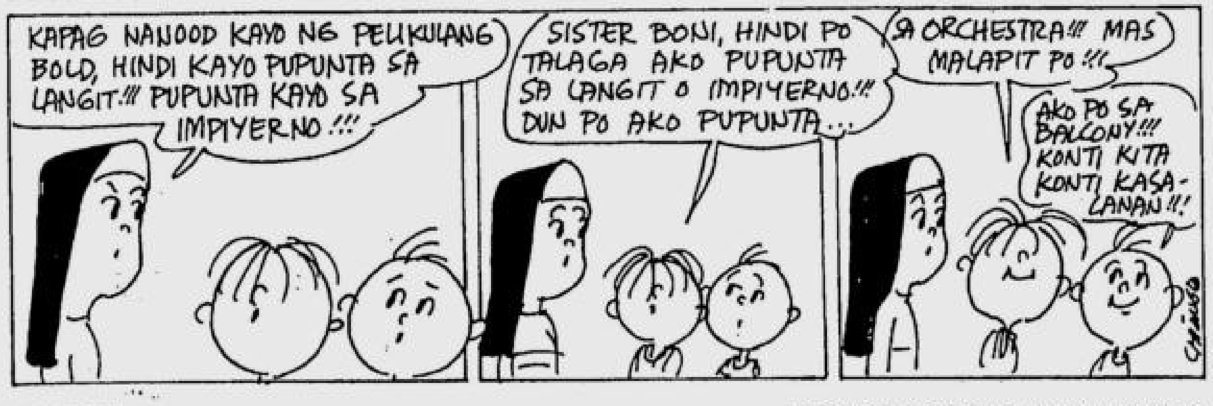
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


YOU'RE BABY-SITTING FOR THE FLAGSTONS?
HI MADE ME AN OFFER I COULDN'T REFUSE...
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
PAY-PER-VIEW AND A FULL FRIDGE!
3-2

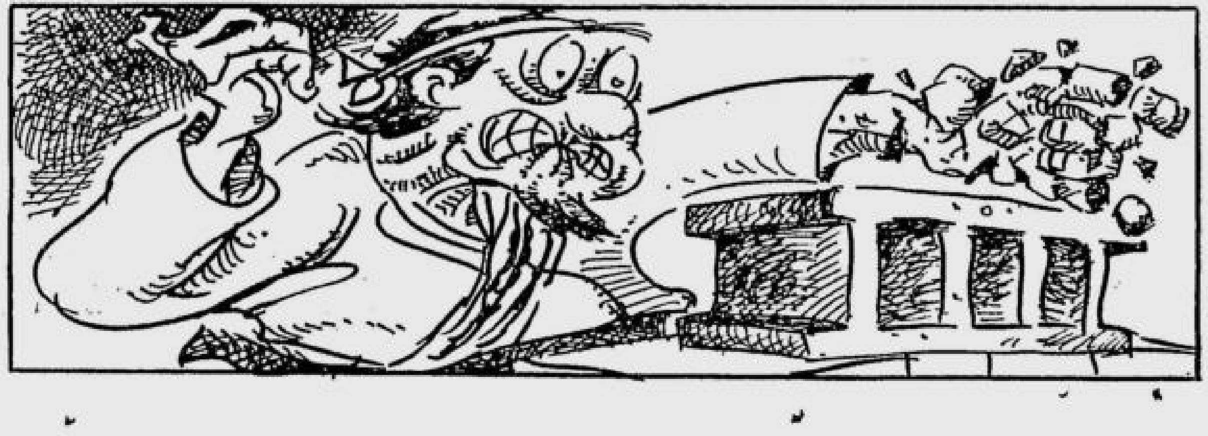
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KAPAG NANOOD KAYO NG PELIKULANG BOLD, HINDI KAYO PUPUNTA SA LANGIT!!! PUPUNTA KAYO SA IMPIYERNO!!!
SISTER BONI, HINDI PO TALAGA AKO PUPUNTA SA LANGIT O IMPIYERNO!!! DUN PO AKO PUPUNTA...
SA ORCHESTRA!!! MAS MALAPIT PO!!!
AKO PO SA BALCONY!!! KONTI KITA KONTI KASALANAN!!!
CHIONGLO

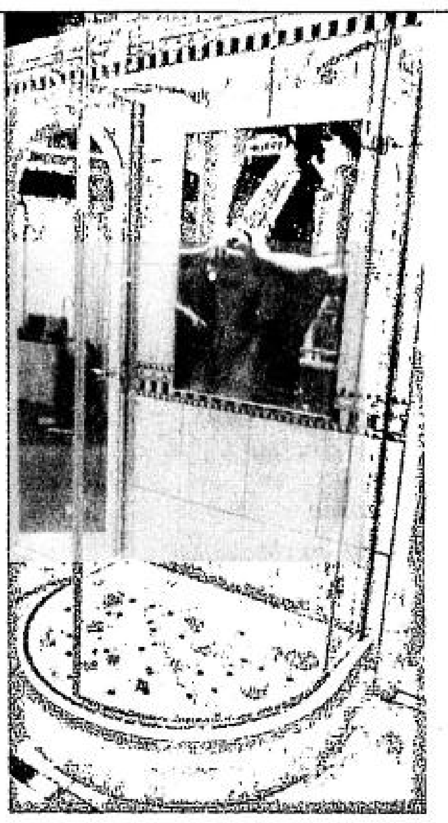
TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

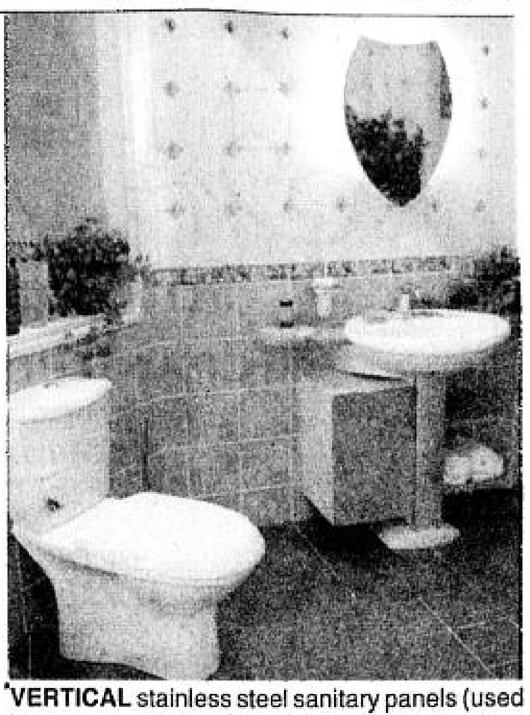


BATHTUB by New Haven is a good example of the beauty and durability of ceramicplus (trademark for ceramic type that combines quartz and acrylic).

TOP-OF-THE-LINE fixtures of solid brass and chrome finish by Hansa and faucets and shower sprays by Keuco are prominent exhibit displays.



SHOWER enclosures are the specialty of Huppe and Viala. Shown is a model with semicircular wall and door, overhead towel rods and soap trays at the sides.



VERTICAL stainless steel sanitary panels (used by many hotels, malls and theaters) are a dline specialization. A panel holds dispensers for tissue, paper towels, cups, plastic bags, waste paper and soap.

Make room for the designer bathroom

By Doris G. Nuyda
Photos by Johnny Villena

PEDESTAL lavatories, sleek tubs and water closets, compact shower enclosures appointed with elegant high-grade ceramics and chrome-finished brass fixtures agleam in star white or other soothing colors. These are the bathrooms of the new millennia, and they were on display at the Hamburg booths in the recently concluded World Building and Construction Exposition (Worldbex), World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard.

The Hamburg booths establishes the bathroom (as well as kitchen) no longer as a room to be kept out of sight but as an important space in the home worthy of an interior designer's touch.

They are, of course, also seen in permanent showcases at the offices of the Hamburg International Sales Corp. on Pasong Tamo, Makati City where they concretely express the corporate vision: "'More than just odes to function and style, bathrooms are now exquisite products of sound engineering and the latest technology..."

The new lifestyles that have evolved from new technology have transformed bathrooms from mere enclosures for private ablutions into stylish havens where users can enjoy solitude and relaxation and health and psychological benefits.

Hamburg is exclusive distributor in the Philippines of quality German bathroom and kitchen fixtures, accessories and other products made by well-established names in the industry such as Villeroy & Boch (253 years of experience in bathroom manufacture), Huppe (shower stall specialists), Keuco (for bathroom lights, mirrors and cabinets), Hansa (for bathroom fittings and accessories), dline (for sanitary panels that hold paper towels, tissue paper, plastic bag dispensers) and several others. Each offers a variety of styles, like the Amadea or Viala or New Haven to make easy selections.

BEECHWOOD furniture for built-in and surface-mounted washbasins by Loop, revel in their minimalist looks.

A look at the bathrooms and their accessories show that while they are essentially designed for cleansing rituals, they have become so beautiful and comfortable (art combined with function) that users can actually "live" in them that is, make it a meditation, fitness and whenever solitude is the need of the hour.

While extolling the excellence of Hamburg products, Ralf Banaski, V&B's regional sales manager for the Far East and North America, revealed his awareness of the water problems in Metro Manila and how necessary it has become for many families to resort to pails and drums for water storage. Asked how his company would address the problem, Banaski replied, "Have beautiful pails," conforming to V&B's dictum that function and style should mix.

WATER closet, of high-tech ceramics, an Amadea design, has flushing capacity of six liters. Some models can be flushed twice in a row.

Cleaning and care of a bathroom

VILLEROY & Boch claims that ceramicplus, the trademark and main material of its bathtubs, lavatories and water closets, "simply stays clean" because of a unique dirt-repellent surface which banishes virtually every unsightly trace from the bathroom. As it is important to keep them that way in order to ensure their continued beauty and durability, V&B provides these cleaning and care tips:

Most of the time you will require only clear water and damp cloth for daily care.

Tidemarks, grease and soap residues can be removed quickly and effortlessly with a standard nonabrasive household cleaner. Tried-and-tested cleaning agents are household vinegar or diluted vinegar concentrate, which are a simple means of removing scale. An acid-soaked cloth can be placed on stubborn stains and left overnight. You can apply vinegar cleaners undiluted and simply rinse off after a brief period.

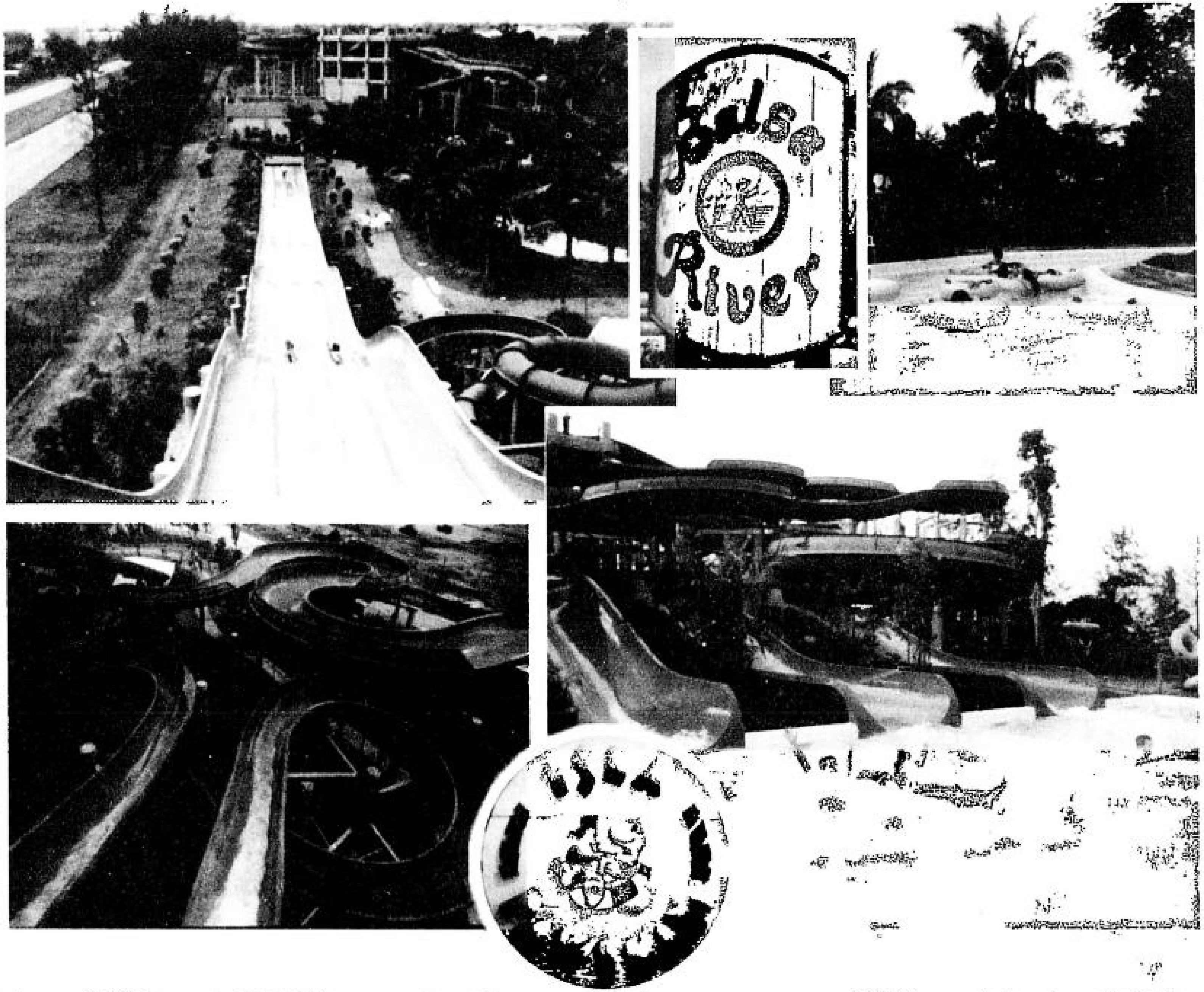
Exercise care with all substances containing fluorine, like rust removers and toothpaste. Make sure that all residues of such substances are removed immediately as they may cause stains.

If dirt and stains are not removed by the above methods, V&B recommends liquid or cream breath cleaners applied with a nonabrasive household sponge.

To enhance the glimmering play of your ceramic colors (particularly opal), first clean the bath accessories (tub, lavatories), then rub the

CLEANING/ p.D8

WE'RE OPEN THIS HOLY WEEK
EXCEPT APRIL 13, GOOD FRIDAY



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A nature and arts camp for children

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THIS summer, let the kids out on a Snack. No, this isn't something you eat, but something to digest and imbibe anyway.

Snack stands for Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids, which was conceived three years ago by journalist Bibsy M. Carballo as a means of exposing children to the realities of a troubled environment.

This year, Snack runs April 2-7 at the Taal Yacht Club, Talisay, Batangas. As in the past, enrolment was limited to 35 kids, ages 7-13.

Activities like the Coleman mountaineering workshop, Zesto sailing competition, Guess Kids archery, Habagat Lubid adventure games, taekwondo, kite-flying, star-gazing all stress on environmental awareness.

Supported by business and media, Snack 2001 is the first integrated live-in camp that aims to develop self-reliance, discipline, trust and awareness of one's surroundings in children during their formative years. It is a back-to-basics camp away from the confines of a schoolroom, away from dust, traffic, noise and air pollution.

Activities have been planned throughout the five days to instill these lessons. The Coleman mountaineering segment, for instance, introduces exercises in waste segregation and recycling, and tree planting to highlight one of today's biggest urban problems. It also includes mountaineering exercises, orienteering or working with a compass, trekking up Taal Volcano. Educational textbook publisher, Diwa Learning Systems, joins Purefoods TJ in sponsoring a "Paint a Tarsier" contest on kites and ceramic tiles to emphasize the plight of the tarsier, smallest primate in the world and one of the Philippines' endangered species.

Konica offers cameras to winners of a photo tilt called "'Stop and Smell the Flowers'" intended to open young eyes and minds to the chaos man has wrought on the environment.

The Snack is held at the Taal Lake Yacht Club, which sits on the banks of Taal Lake with the volcano as backdrop. The location itself, says Carballo, is a tribute to nature's inimitable beauty. The Yacht Club is well secured and utilized by sailing aficionados on weekends. Motorized boats are discouraged due to their noise and other negative effects on the environment.

As this is a camp, tents are provided, each accommodating four to six kids, depending on the size of the tent. Each tent has an adult staying in with the children, and there are two camp counselors rotating during night duty. A complete trained staff well versed in the various water sports is on hand 24 hours a day. There are also a live-in nurse and a live-in caterer to supply meals. Group insurance is included in the package.

Assembly was on April 2 at the Magallanes Commercial Center fronting the windmill. Return to Manila at 8 a.m. at the Magallanes assembly point. Parents who attend the culminating activities at 7 tonight, April 6, can pick up children who wish to go home ahead of the others, or opt to pick them up in Taal not later than 7:30 a.m., April 7.

For more details, contact Bibsy Carballo, Snack Secretariat, at 721-0801 or 726-7164 or through her website: geocities.com/snackphil.

6th graders on environmental degradation

HOW Grade 6 students perceive the state of the environment was the focus of a research paper by Maicha M. Lucaylucay, a graduating high school student of the Southville International School in Parañaque, Metro Manila.

The questionnaire aimed to show what these students thought about environmental degradation in the country.

The research revealed that most of the respondents were aware of environmental conditions around them, that they got their information both in school and from media (TV, newspapers, radio). Majority believed that while some ecosystems have been damaged, others remain untouched. Twenty-three percent said that the ecosystems are slightly damaged and can still be corrected. A few answered they had no idea.

Forty percent of respondents attributed urbanization (city pollution and lifestyles) as the major cause of environmental degradation, followed by residential wastes (47 percent), agricultural waste (30 percent) and industrial waste (40 percent).

Asked about the contributing factors to air pollution, majority replied that these were modernization and new technology (under modernization, the researcher includes "the vast and manifold processes of industrial, agricultural and household combustion which tends to raise carbon dioxide in the air").

The researcher suggests that, to gain further insight into the study, other grade schools could conduct similar studies to find out whether a trend in perception exists.

Cleaning and care of a bathroom

(From page D7)

ceramic surfaces with a soft, dry cloth, or use a standard glass cleaner.

For baths and shower trays of high-quality ceramics, use a damp cloth or sponge. If necessary, use liquid, nonabrasive and non-corrosive household cleaners.

Ceramicplus wares, as these instructions show, do not need scouring, scraping and scrubbing. All that's needed is a regular wipe with a damp cloth and a mild cleaning agent (washing-up liquid, bathroom or all-purpose cleaner). In areas with very hard water, regular cleaning with a vinegar-based cleaner is recommended.

Not recommended are scouring liquid, scouring powder, concentrated drain cleaners, liquid cleaners for fittings and steel. They may scratch the ceramic surfaces and impair or even destroy their unique ceramics properties. V&B ceramics do not need strong cleaning agents to keep the bathroom fresh, clean and hygienic.

Bathroom furniture requires very little care as their surfaces are made of sealed, varnished wood or durable laminate. To clean, use a soft cloth and mild nonabrasive household cleaners, preferably diluted washing-up liquid. Clean mirror surfaces with damp chamois leather, but wipe the edges of mirrors with a dry cloth.

Don't expose furniture surfaces to stagnant water or continual moisture for a prolonged period. To prevent this, wipe with a dry cloth.

Chemicals, nail varnish removers, perfumes, etc., must be removed from furniture surfaces immediately. Minor scratches on the surfaces of artificial stone tops and panels should first be wet-ground with fine-grain sandpaper and then polished up using car polish.

Electrical fixtures and devices in the bathroom like furniture with integrated lamps or any other electrical component should not come into contact with water. Power should always be switched off before cleaning, which is to be carried out with a dry cloth.

WC seats and covers are made of through-dyed hard plastic material. A damp, soft cloth is sufficient for routine care. If necessary, use a nonabrasive, non-corrosive household cleaner suitable for plastics. When cleaning the WC with special cleaning agents, lift the cover and seat so that they do not come into contact with the cleaner.

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Ms. Ma. Daisie Bombaes

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Lullu Hipe
Mildred Varga
Fe Corazon A. Prado

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Astrud Oquendo
Alberto Telin
Elda Haway
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Judging was held on March 26, 2001 at Focus Global Inc. in the presence of a DTI Representative.
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Shooting Pinatubo

A difficult fashion pictorial reworks the eerie topography of the Pinatubo crater with volcanic effect

BRAVE SOULS. Noli Hans, Joy Caralde, Frederick Peralta, Georgette Nepomuceno and Barge Ramos feel victorious after enduring the rough terrain and the fickle weather in Mount Pinatubo.

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY JOHN MOSSIGE

ON JUNE 15, 1991, Mount Pinatubo in Zambales awoke like a sleeping giant after 500 years and shocked the world. It was the world's second largest eruption in the 20th century after the Katmai-Novarupta, Alaska in 1992.

The date is significant to designer Barge Ramos and to other traveling Filipinos who were to fly to Manila on that day. They were stranded in their cities because Naia was closed. Ramos was in San Francisco. In all the international dailies, Pinatubo's eruption hit the front page. Pictures showed ash clouds 35 km into the sky and hot blasts scorching the countryside.

The ash fallout reached 450 km south to other provinces including Naia. The fallout reached as far as Cambodia, South Korea and Malaysia. Lahar, a mixture of volcanic rock debris and water, traveled at nearly 100 km per hour. The bank erosion and lahar left 50,000 homeless and affected more than 1,350,000 lives in Central Luzon. Some 250 died in the eruption and more than a hundred drowned in lahar.

Back then Ramos couldn't imagine the magnitude of the natural calamity. Ten years later, he experienced the eerie and mystical beauty of Mount Pinatubo. For the INQUIRER's surreal fashion pictorial, he and four designers created gowns, which also marked the beginning of a series of events leading to the 10th anniversary celebration of the volcano's eruption.

Easy access

Mount Pinatubo is now a popular tourist spot. The locals have benefited from tourism. On April 9, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon will accept the Pacific-Asia Tourism Association (Pata) Gold Award for Ecotourism in Kuala Lumpur. The Pata recognizes how tourism has improved the lives of the people.

The project, the Mount Pinatubo Ecotourism Kabuhayan sa Turismo Program, has helped provide a better quality of life especially for an obscure

SHOOTING / p.E2

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April 18, 24/May 3, 9, 18 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
FOR KIDS II: Have fun preparing SPAGHETTI DELIGHT, YUMMY CHOCO CUPCAKES, CHEESE TRIANGLES w/ CREAMY GARLIC DIP, COOL FRUIT SALAD. Ages 8-13. P750
April 19/May 4, 16, 25 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
ASIAN MEATLESS SPECIALS: TEMPURA VEGGIES w/ sauce, THAI CORN FRITTERS w/ sweet chili sauce, QUAIL EGGS & MUSHROOM CANTONESE, SHRIMP STUFFED BEANCURD, CHILI RICE MEAL. Bonus: SQUID RING FRITO w/ garlic vinegar. P800
April 20, 26/May 12, 23 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
PASTA PERFECT: PASTA PUTANESCA, FETTUCCINE ALFREDO, ROTINI SALAD, BAKED TUNA & PASTA CASSEROLE, ANGEL HAIR w/ HERB SEASONED TOMATO SAUCE, GARLIC BREAD w/ LEMON BUTTER. P800
April 21/May 11, 15, 21 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
NO-BAKE EASY DESSERTS: TIRAMISU, CHOCOLATE MOUSSE CAKE, BANANA SPLIT CREPES, MANGO NUT BARS, COFFEE CREAM PIE, CHOCOLATE FONDUE. Bonus: Blueberry cheesecake. P800
April 25/May 10, 22, 28 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
CHICKEN & VEGETABLE DISHES: CRISP VEGGIES w/ 2 DIPS, BAKED CORN CONFETTI, CHICKEN PAELLA CAULIFLOWERS CHEESE CASSEROLE, CHICKEN & VEGETABLE CURRY. Bonus: Sauteed vegetables & mushrooms. P800
April 27/May 5, 7, 24 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
CHOCOLATE COOKIES & BARS: BEST CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES, CHOCOLATE FROSTED BROWNIES, CHOCOLATE CHIP OATMEAL COOKIES, WHITE CHOCOLATE MACADAMIA NUT COOKIES, ESPRESSO BARS, ROCKY ROAD BARS. P800
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P 249
3
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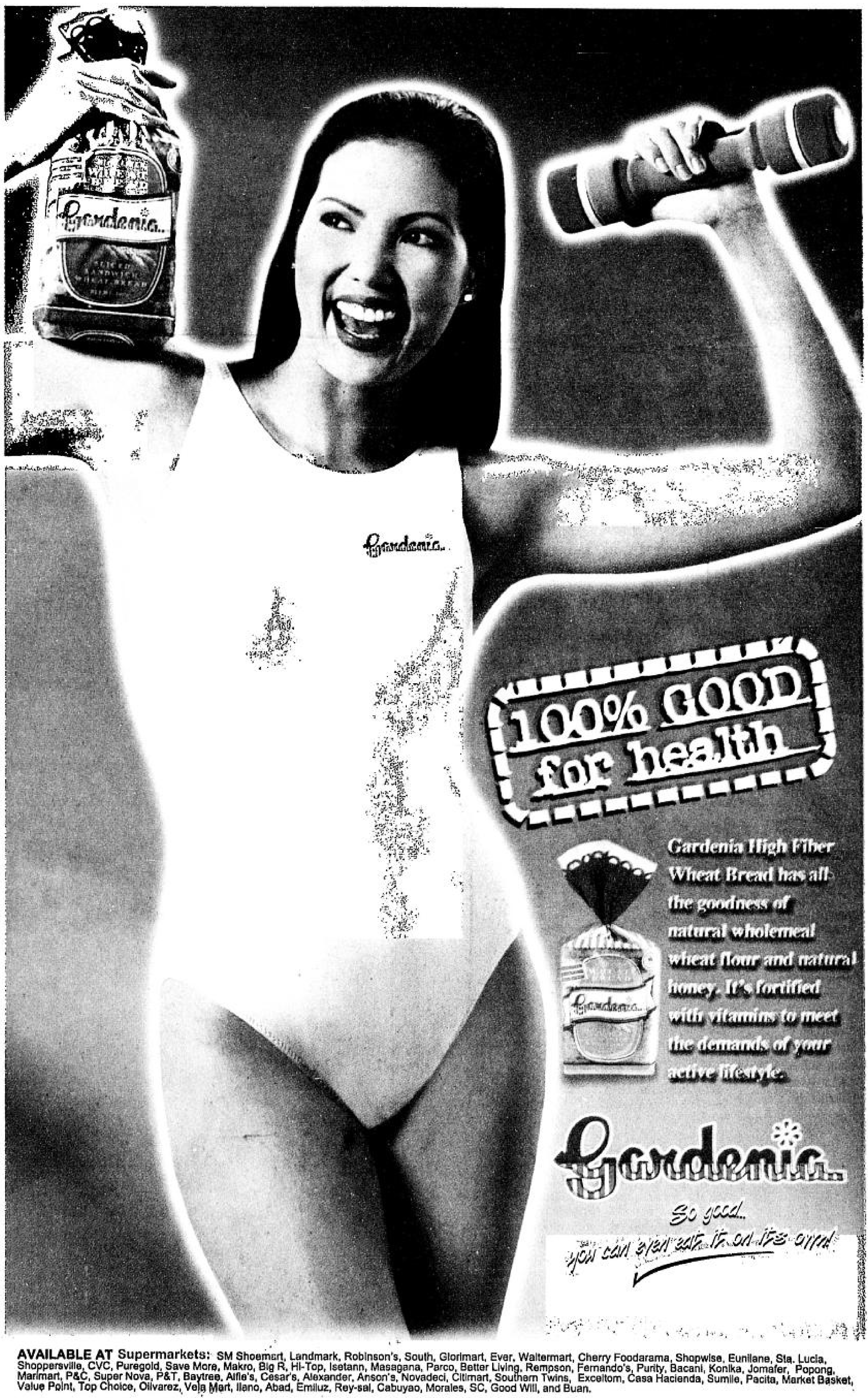
P 299



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Shooting Pinatubo

PAGE DESIGN
L.A. VILLARIBA

MAKEUP FROM
L'OREAL

SPECIAL THANKS TO
DOT REGIONAL
DIRECTOR
RONALDO TIOTUICO,
REA MUTUC AND
RACHEL HILL
OF HOLIDAY INN
RESORT CLARK,
AND THE
PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE

NOLI Hans designed these cutout blouses with crystals teamed with chiffon skirts.

GEORGETTE Nepomuceno wears a zebra-printed black-and-white stretch crepe outfit with a sequined tube by Mike de la Rosa.

JOY Caralde wears a hand-painted *jusi* opera coat, inspired by a Norma Belleza painting, by Barge Ramos. It is worn over a silk crepe bra top and hipster gown.

From page E1

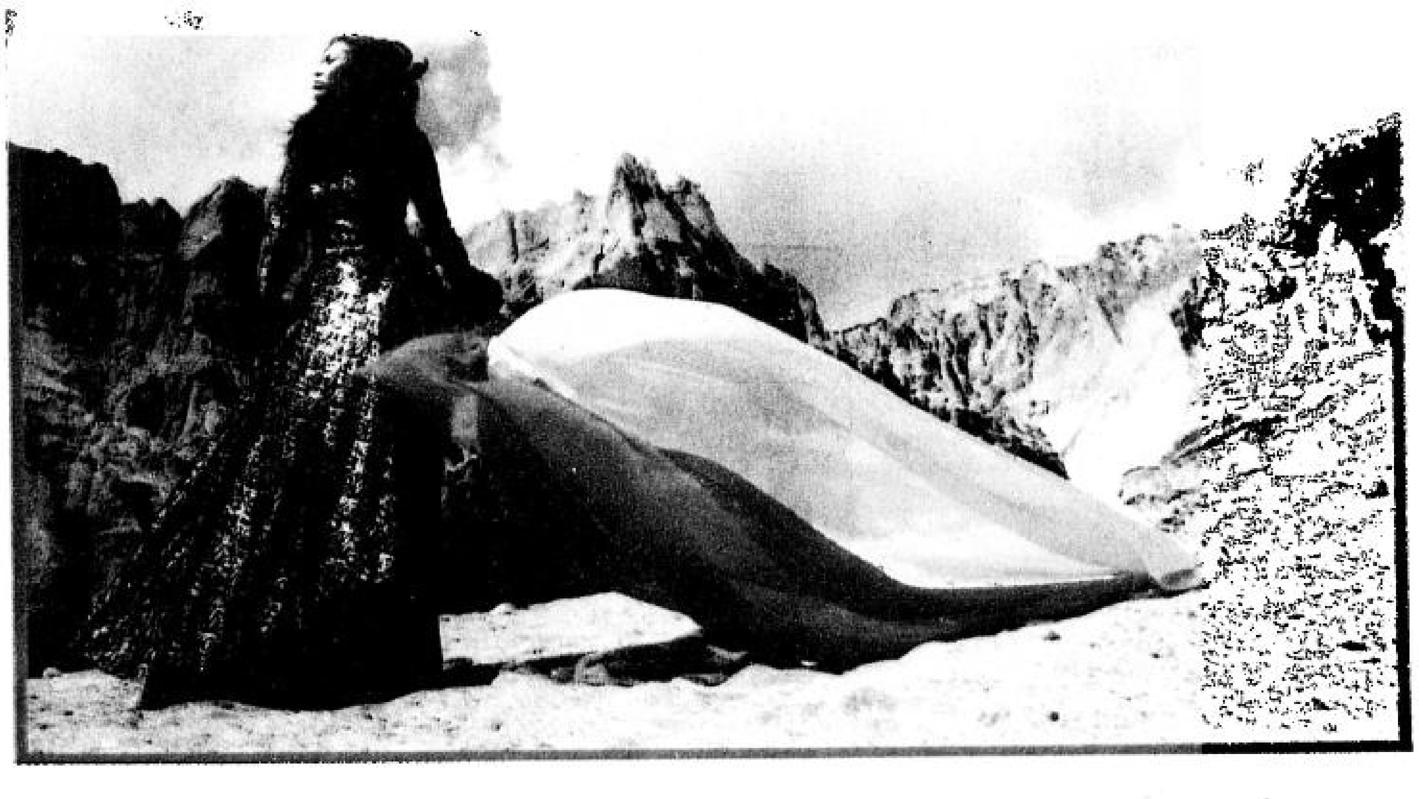
community such as Barangay Sta. Juliana in Capas, Tarlac. Department of Tourism regional director Ronaldo Tiotuico explained that locals lived in hand-to-mouth existence. The natives gathered pumice stones and volcanic rocks from the riverbed and sold them to traders. These stones were used for stonewashed jeans.

In 1994, the DOT wanted to make Mount Pinatubo a travel destination. The problem was how to get there in the least possible time. Two years ago, people discovered the fastest routes to the crater via Barangay Sta. Juliana. It was a hick town with a population of 3,000. In the past two years, the DOT has been training the locals how to serve the tourists. Now the efforts are paying off.

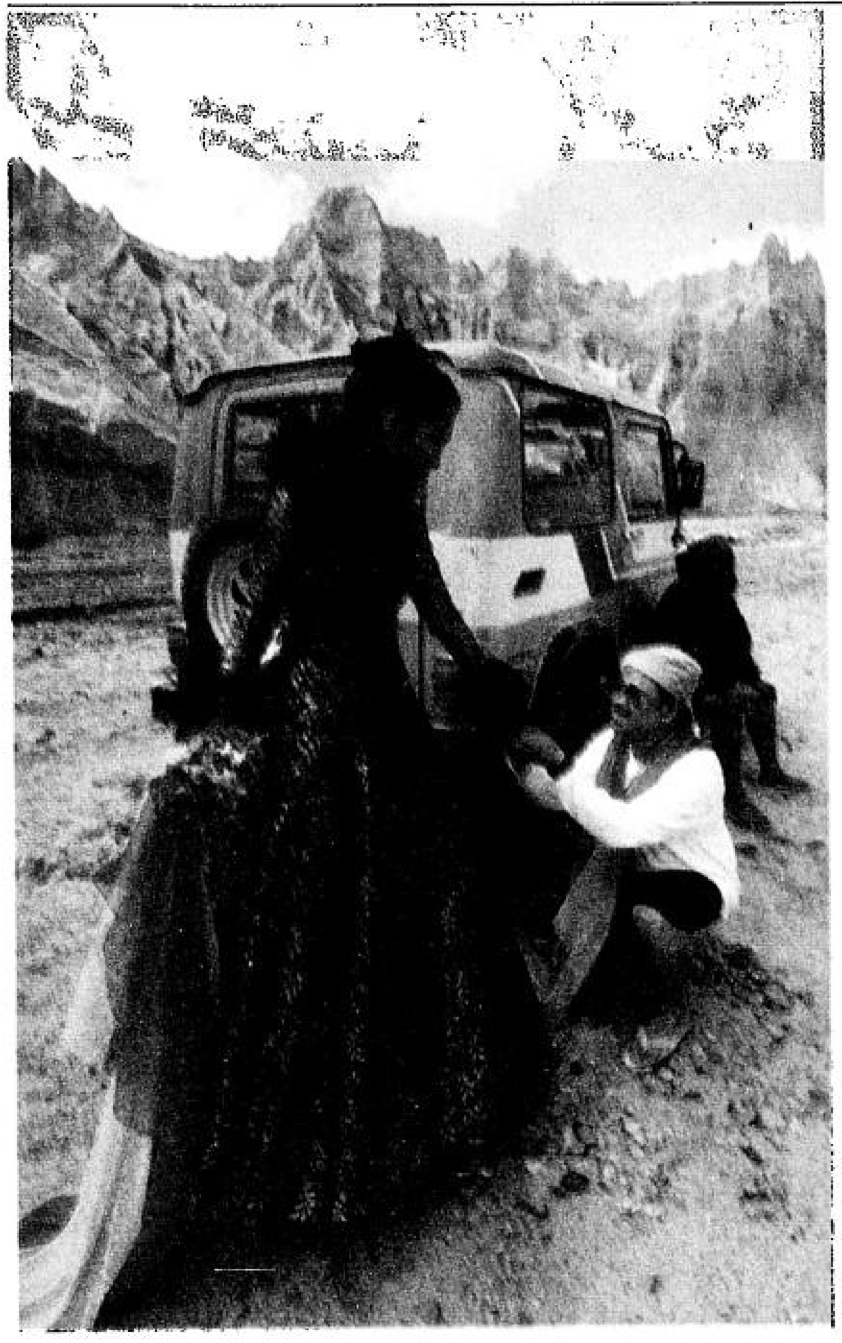
Tiotuico says since the volcano treks were developed, the DOT has been holding seminars on ecotourism and has been helping to create jobs in the community. Visitors pay P20 for the conservation fee and P500 for the guide.

The tourism income goes to the Sta. Juliana Tourism Council that organizes community projects, street lighting and the renovation of chapels. The community also built a tourist center, which provides toilets and baths. The DOT trained some households in Sta. Juliana for the Homestay program.

SHOOTING / p.E3



GEORGETTE wears a Swiss chantilly lace in metallic silver over a fur-trimmed black tulle gown with bouffant silhouette by Frederick Peralta.



PERALTA assists Georgette while the guide looks on.

From page E2

From Sta. Juliana, trekkers ride in 4x4 vehicles that traverse along the rough rounds and streams through the O'Donnel River. It takes about 60 minutes to get to Sitio Dapili; no cars are allowed beyond this point. They take a 5-km walk to the crater, which takes nearly three hours. The crater is located in Botolan, Zambales.

"It's no longer a No Man's Land," says Tiotuico. Last year, Mount Pinatubo had an average of 1,200 trekkers a month. Sometimes there were about 100 visitors a day. About 80 percent came from Metro Manila; the foreign tourists were mostly Europeans. More than 30 local guides and 20 porters can assist the tourists. The Air Force provides security. The peak months are from March to May. During the rainy season, the locals start farming and they harvest in November. The harvests are offered to Apo Malyari, the god of the volcano.

On Nov. 30, the DOT is organizing a trek to the crater similar to the pilgrimage to Mount Fuji, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the eruption. Trekkers will offer flowers and harvests to the Divine Protector of the Aetas.

Indiana Jones trip

This fashion shoot was for the books. The DOT picked up the designers, models and photographers at the Holiday Inn Clark Field Resort at 5 a.m. (The DOT advises that Manileños should spend a night in either Clark or Angeles City the night before the trek.) The DOT served them a hearty Filipino breakfast at the Tourism Center in Sta. Juliana.

The trip to the crater was, as designer Noli Hans put it, "like an Indiana Jones adventure." Colleagues Frederick Peralta compared the trip to a roller-coaster ride. Everybody kept on screaming as the vehicle passed through the inclines and fast streams. The driver assured them that they would arrive safely. When they reached the slope, they had to make the customary salutations to Apo Malyari, the god of the volcano.

A month earlier, Norwegian photographer John Mossige spent a night at the crater for an ocular inspection of the site. Dream Trek accompanied him to the tour. He took Polaroid shots and showed them to his agent in London. The agent was surprised that it looked like an ice cap.

Mossige returned to Manila to do some commitments for his local agent, Cal Carrie. He then met the designers and asked them to make gowns that were vivid in color and soft in silhouette to set off the earthy landscape. Other designers such as Auggie Cordero and Mike de la Rosa also made gowns for the INQUIRER pictorial. The designers brought scarves and umbrellas to cover the models when they changed.

Rain dance

The pictorial would have been perfect, what with a seasoned fashion photographer such as Mossige, courageous and beautiful models such as Georgette Nepomuceno and Joy Caralde, and gowns made by Cordero, Hans, Peralta, De la Rosa and Ramos.

However, they were at the mercy of the fickle weather. The sun would shine and suddenly hide behind the clouds. It would rain for 30 minutes, even if it was summer, then sun would reappear. Just when the shoot would gain momentum, the rain would come again and delay the shoot. Everybody would run a kilometer to the vehicle for shelter. When the sun came out, they'd take a long walk to a new location.

The landscape transformed every hour especially after it rained; sand mountains were formed.

"The pictorial was a test of patience and endurance on our part. It was humbling. Everything was beyond your control. You couldn't get the shot of what you wanted even if you had nice gowns, good models and a good photographer," says Ramos.

"I was in awe of Mother Nature. You have to work with Nature just to get a good photograph. If the sun hadn't come out we wouldn't have shot anything. It was awesome. In all my years we've done crazy pictorials. You get a different feeling there. Pinatubo is larger than life. When you are going up there, you see raw nature. It contrasts with a beautiful woman and a gown."

Peralta literally rendered a rain dance so that

SHOOTING/ p.E4

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Venue: The Shangri-la Plaza - Basement Black Marble Area (Food Court in front of Rustan's Grocery)
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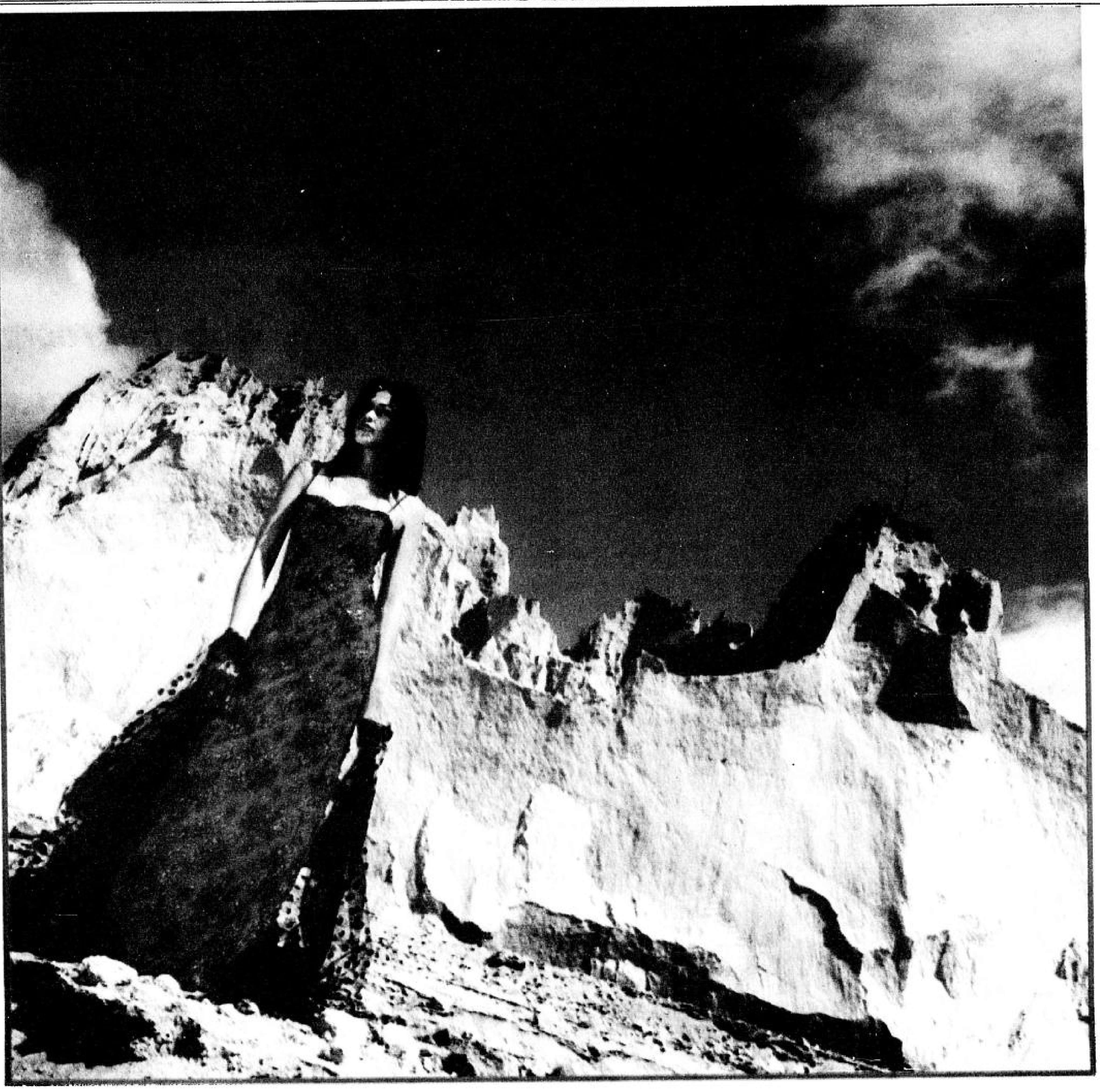
Shooting Pinatubo



JOY wears a black-and-red beaded lace gown with a chiffon shawl by Auggie Cordero.

From page E3

the pictorial could be accomplished. He sang and danced to humor the models.

"It was frustrating because of the rain was coming in and out all the time. Instead of thinking about the creative part, you worry about the weather," said Mossige.

He didn't shoot in the crater since the water level varied and space for the shoot was difficult. Yet he still finds Mount Pinatubo one of his favorite locations. The changing silhouettes of the canyons and cliffs created various possibilities for a fashion pictorial.

Caralde and Nepomuceno deserve a trophy for enduring the rough conditions of this pictorial. So does Peralta for organizing the models and designers, and most especially for buoying up everybody's damp spirits.

Crazy pictorial

The team shared their packed meals of burgers and spring rolls with the guides who ate nothing but banana and white bread.

The pictorial ended at 3 p.m. When they drove down the volcano taking the same route, nobody could recognize the landscape. Everybody was back in the Clark resort by 7 p.m. The models stayed in the hotel to rest while the others went out for dinner in Fortune restaurant, hosted by hotelier Richard Tang.

When the designers returned to Manila, they all expressed that they had never encountered such a bizarre pictorial. A fashion team would have to withstand the rugged conditions, fickle weather and tempers.

If a fashion team would like to shoot there again, we suggest they consult an astrologer to pick an auspicious date to scale the volcano and make peace offerings to Apo Malyari.

For details about Mount Pinatubo, contact the Department of Tourism Region III Office, Paskuhan Village, San Fernando Pampanga, tel. (045) 961-2665/2612 or e-mail dotr3@mail.irnet.net.ph

DESIGNER Barge Ramos, photographer John Mossige and Joy Caralde watch the clouds cover the sun.

BINGO
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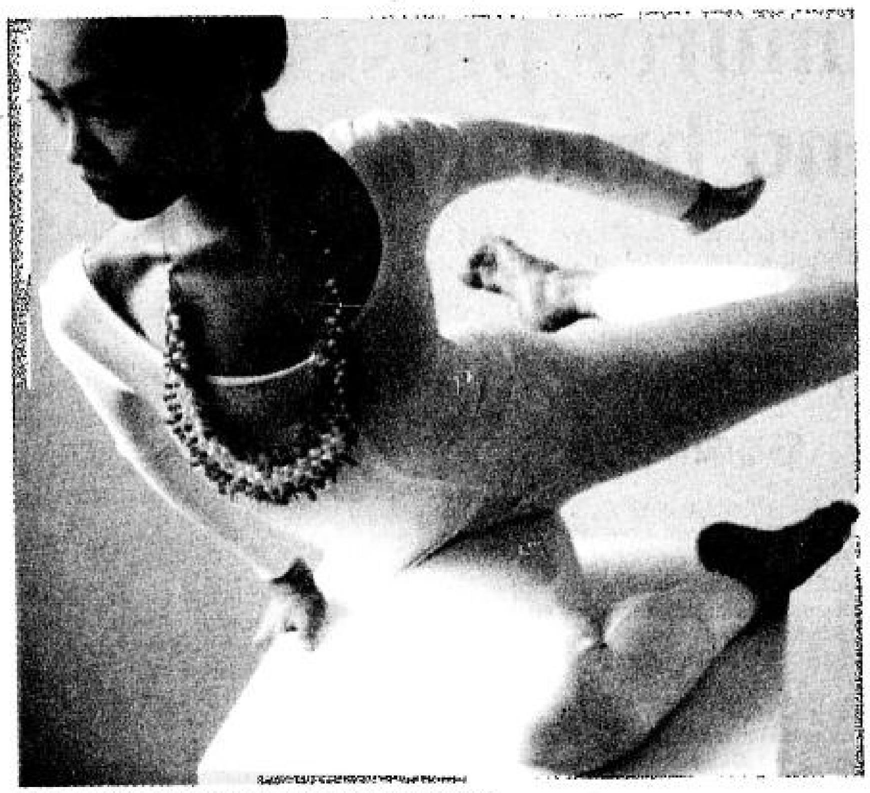
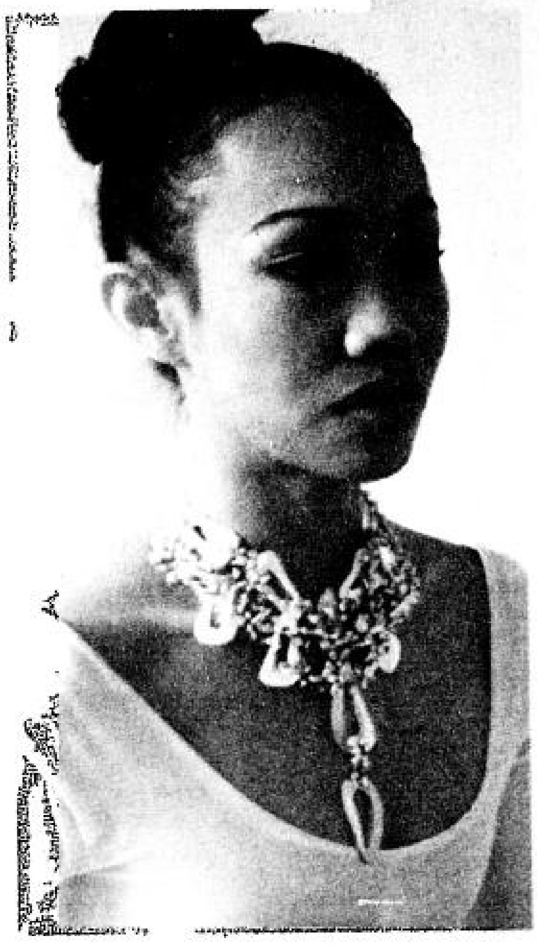
Great Shopping Bargains! More than 100 Greenhills shops now

Ursula Aznar invokes the power of crystals and minerals in exquisite jewelry pieces that connect the wearer with the cosmos



SARDINIAN coral with white cultured pearls

GEORGETTE Sanchez wears a choker with mother-of-pearl loops and holds a Russian amber centerpiece with carnelian citrine tigereye



FLOWFORMS in horn with fine bands of hematite onyx pinna nobilis and pearls

MODEL: GEORGETTE SANCHEZ
OF BALLET PHILIPPINES
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY JOJO ARJONA
OF EMPHASIS SALON, ROCKWELL

HORN form with wrapped turquoise hammershell solitaire and lapis lazuli

Minerally yours

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

IF jewelry is the adornment of the body, virtue is the decoration of the soul. This is the precept of Cebu-based jeweler and New Age proponent Ursula Aznar. She is known for her ethnic-inspired pieces, with materials sourced from here and abroad: mother-of-pearl, black horn and Osmeña pearls from Cebu; amber from Russia, coral from Sardinia, semiprecious stones from all over the world.

A turning point in her life and career as a designer came when she worked with indigenous groups in Mindanao and became close friends with tribal leaders and tribespeople.

Her cultural and spiritual reawakening led her to the founding of Shambala Center Inc. in 1996. Shambala is a nonprofit corporation that serves as a tool for holistic information dissemination, peace work and healing. Aznar wanted to create an awareness of our "holistic" nature in connection with all, including our cultural roots, to help understand the interconnectedness of life.

With this new phase in her life, Aznar's jewelry also went through a renaissance with a new understanding of the influence of colors, symbols and minerals.

"With a sensitivity to the frequencies of the materials around us, jewelry can be a tool for enhancing energies. I see them not only as objects of beauty or as a statement of status, but as a kind of 'healing instrument.'"

Holistic

Each piece is done with respect for nature and with love, bringing those vibrations to the person who finally wears the jewelry, hoping to weave a fabric of light and love.

Colors have different vibrational wavelengths: red for power, strength and romantic love; pink for unconditional love; green and pink for healing; blue for mental clarity; turquoise for the throat, the ability to speak out; white for purity.

"But it's not just the colors of the minerals that play a role. Even the crystalline inner structure and the origin of the stones are important: whether they come from a primary source (magma) or a tertiary source, having undergone changes through erosion and mixed again with gases and other minerals," says Aznar.

Humanity and minerals

"When humanity was still nomadic, people felt intuitively where they should go and get the most from the frequencies of the minerals. When there is a need of strengthening, one would best be near stones of volcanic origin. Corals and shells give a flowing influence, enhancing the ability to change and be flexible. This is also reflected in the characteristics of people living in the mountains and those near the sea. If a person comes from an area of volcanic origin, he/she might be strong and hardworking. Going to a place near the sea will give the impulse of letting go, becoming more open to change and less serious in outlook," she says.

Ursula's jewelry can be viewed at the "Flow of Life" exhibit at Firma on 616 J. Nakpil, Malate. Call 525-5001.

CHOKER with horn rings and Osmeña pearls, onyx hematite

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LAKBAYK-TRIBO

3rd nationwide biking caravan for mother earth and the indigenous peoples of the philippines

7 APRIL — 12 MAY
EARTH DAY 2001

Lakbay — riders enact the travels of their ancestors to share the stories of their peoples, forge friendships and individually seek out and fulfill visions. Friends, advocates and supporters are encouraged to pedal with them for the entire length of the journey or in pre-identified routes.

BayK — on bicycles, the riders will be open to the elements, and therefore, to peoples' kindness and support. On bayKs, they are consistent with the principles of sustainability and environmentalism. On bayks, they challenge their own limits, with every uphill a call for affirmation of their roles to uplift their communities. And with every downhill, sheer joy at being alive!

K — create public awareness on the *Karapatan* (rights) of indigenous peoples communities. It is a celebration of the continuing struggle of the indigenous peoples all over the world; a struggle for justice, peace and integrity of creation.

Tribo — youth from various indigenous Philippine communities will undertake the journey to dramatize their willingness to take up leadership in their communities. *LakbayK-tribo* is an investment of indigenous communities on their youth, building them to be their future leaders. All throughout the nationwide cycling caravan and at designated stop-overs, forums will be held with local government officials, nongovernment development organizations and peoples communities.

LakbayK-tribo is a celebration of Life. The permanent riders and other supporting cycling and environmental advocates will plant indigenous species of trees in identified destinations.

- Opening Rituals
- Press Conference
- The caravan departs for Olongapo at 8 AM

APRIL 7 / Saturday
6 – 8 AM
UP-Diliman, Quezon City
(Admin. BLdg./Oblation)

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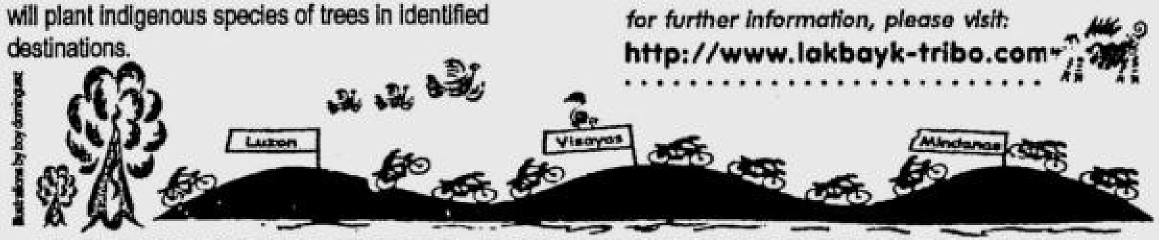


PROTECT MOTHER EARTH. RESPECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS.

Intramuros presents a grand bridal affair

THIS year's most awaited bridal event, "Kasalan sa Intramuros," opens today and will run until April 8, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., at Villa Immaculada, Intramuros, Manila (behind Manila Cathedral). The three-day bridal show will be highlighted by an exhibit of the most in-demand wedding suppliers today, day-long acoustic serenade by the country's best musicians, butterfly releases, fireworks display, makeover sessions, plus a must-see bridal fashion show by premier designers such as Eddie Baddeo, Edwin Uy, Malou Castillejos, Joel Pros, Joel Bautista, Michelle Lim, Tito Franco, RB Conanan and Fanny Serrano with guest designer Ben Farrales. Fashion show director is Raymond Villanueva. Kasalan sa Intramuros is fully endorsed by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila and the Department of Tourism-Intramuros Administration.

GOINGS-ON

FASHION SHOW. SM Supermalls and ERMS will mount a series of fashion shows dubbed "Summer Hits 2001, In Fashion," showcasing various brands like Eastpak Backpack, G.T.Hawkins and Rugged Shark shoes and sandals, Freeway, Ensemble, Gucci, Diesel, Ray-Ban Eyewear, Timex Watches and Bossini jeans and shirts. The series of events are set on April 7 (SM North Edsa), April 20 (SM Southmall), April 21 (SM Centerpoint), May 4 (SM Fairview) and May 5 (SM City Manila).

SUMMER COURSES. The Kodaly Society of the Philippines will hold a variety of courses: An Introduction to the Kodaly Method, April 25-27; A Seminar-Workshop on Kodaly Methodology and Choral Techniques, April 30-May 11; Music and Movement for Children: the Dalcroze Method, April 23, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. A special course in conducting is set on April 30-May 21, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. All courses will be conducted at the UP College of Music, Diliman, QC.

Call 831-7165 or 833-9003.

CONTEST. Hallmark's "Between You and Me Cardspeak Contest" will run until May 17. Send in your most memorable Between You and Me card you received (actual card) with a story of the card (why it means so much to you) in 200 words or less. Lucky winners will receive Swatch watches and may catch their stories in Joe D' Mango's Love Notes over Wave 89.1 or in 2bU!, the INQUIRER's teen section.

Include your name, address and contact numbers in your entries and mail to Filstar Distributors Corp., 3/F Team Pacific Building, 13 Jose Cruz St., Ugong, Pasig City.

EASTER CELEBRATION. On April 7, Golden Books and Powerbooks Specialty Store will celebrate an early Easter with a series of events for kids at Powerbooks Alabang. There will be two time slots: 2-4 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. Registration is P100 with a special 20-percent discount for Power cardholders.

Call 850-5662/63.

EASTER ADVENTURE. Join the Westin Philippine Plaza in a motorcade to welcome Cookie Monster and his friends from Sesame Street tomorrow at the CCP Complex. Celebrate Easter Sunday at Westin with the whole gang.

UK FAIR. UK Education Fair 2001 will be held on April 7 and 8, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Manansala Function Room, Manila Galleria Suites, Ortigas. The fair is open to all students and professionals who wish to gain the competitive advantage of a foreign degree. Admission is free.

Call 723-2207, 723-2202, 727-0924/0930.

PHOTO WORKSHOP. Cinematographer/photographer Ariel Reyes will hold a Summer Photography Workshop at the Mary Help of Christians Parish in Better Living, Parañaque on April 16-May 31. The workshop is open to all amateur and professional photographers. Registration will be held at the parish grounds of the Mary Help of Christians Church on April 8 at 2 p.m.

Call 776-4249 or 824-3029.

WORKSHOP. Adarna House stages "Kwentong Adarna: Summer Storytelling and Workshop for Kids," April 18-May 18.

Call 410-5200.

SEMINAR. Cal Carrie's International Models' Personality and Image Development Center is now welcoming enrollees for its summer program. Special seminars will be conducted for high school and college graduates of 2001.

Call 884-0350 or 753-3700, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., or visit Suite 1514 Herrera Tower, 98 Herrera St., Salcedo Village. Makati.

WORKSHOP. The Center for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra) holds workshops on dynamic yoga for the Urban Pinoy or Urban Yoga until April 26, 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On April 5-May 3, Dada Sudhananda conducts the Basic Holistic Yoga, an introduction to the eight limbs of yoga, with emphasis on the physical postures.

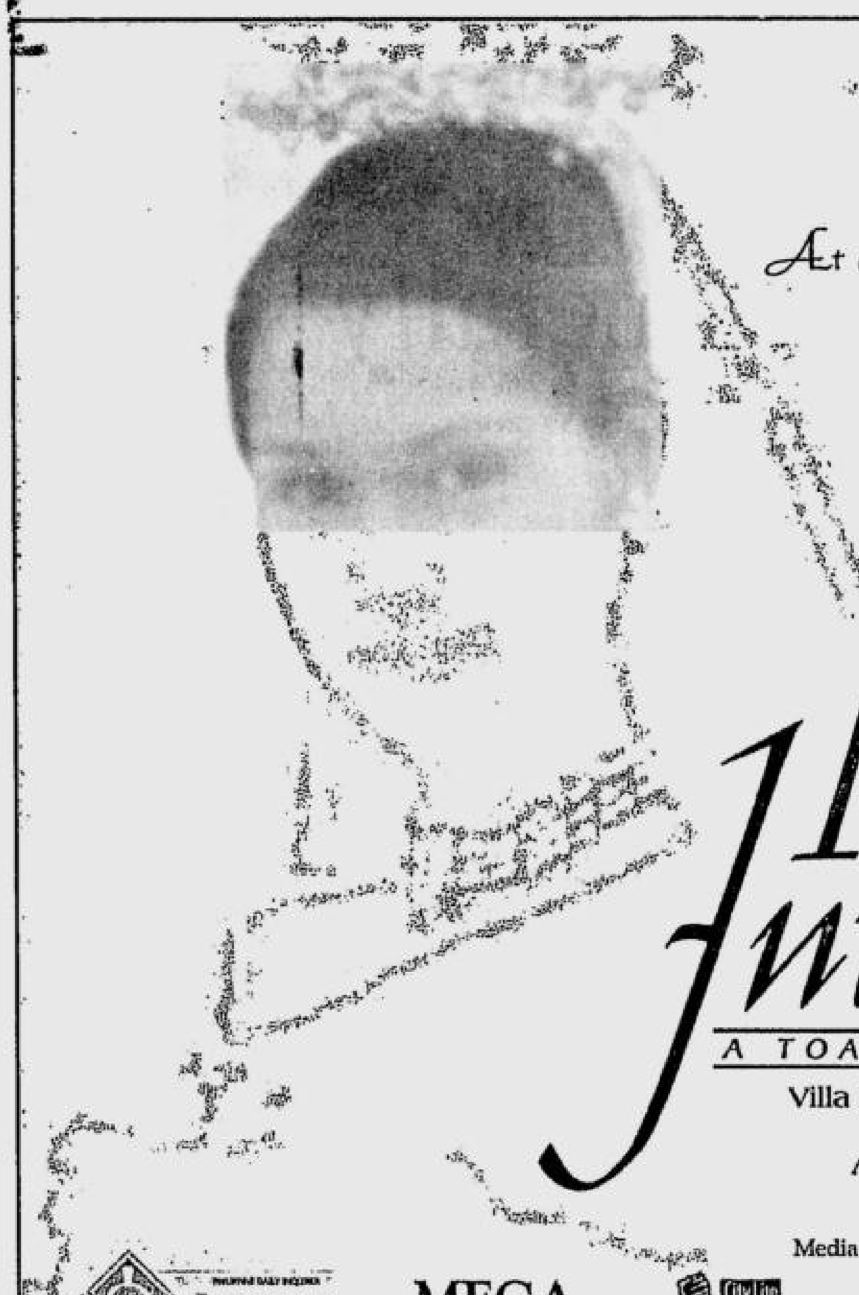
On April 16-18, come home to your Filipino Babaylan Spirit or the spirit of the ancient indigenous priest/priestess/healer/counselor.

On April 23-May 9, Jim Paredes conducts Tapping the Creative Universe workshop, 6-8 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, April 23-May 9.

Call 426-5368 and 434-5381.

CONFERENCE. The Philippine Association of Academic and Research Libraries will hold a summer conference on April 19-22, with the theme "The Future of Libraries as Agents of Change." The conference will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Iloilo City, at SandCastles Resort in Boracay.

Call 844-7832, 735-6861/9406 or 524-8835.



"Higit pa sa yaman... puso mo'y aalagaan.
Higit pa sa bukas... sumpa ko'y wagas.
Higit pa sa akin... Ikaw ay mamahalin.
At aking panalangin, tayo nawa'y pagpalain...
Sa ating pag-iisa at bagong simulain."

Kasalan sa Intramuros

A TOAST TO THE FILIPINA BRIDE

Villa Immaculada, behind Manila Cathedral,
Intramuros, Manila
April 6,7 & 8, 2001 • 10 AM - 8 PM

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

APRIL 6	10am	Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies & Formal Opening Butterfly Release
	11am - 8pm	Viewing of Exhibits/Hourly Raffle
	1pm - 5pm	Strings Serenade to be participated in by the country's top musicians *Strings* • Bernie Pasamba Music Consultancy • String Minstrels • Velvet Mood • Philomusic String Ensemble • Leggiero Strings
	5pm	Bridal Makeover Sessions
	6pm	Bridal Fashion Show
APRIL 7	10am - 8pm	Viewing of Exhibits/Hourly Raffle
	1pm - 5pm	Chorale Concert to be participated in by *the following Choral Groups* • A Capella Manila • Little House of Nazareth Choir • Solfeggio Choir • UPCE Senior's Choir • San Beda High School Glee Club & Alumni • Hiraya • Icon Choir
	7pm	Bridal Fashion Show by Brides' Favorite Designers including *Eddie Baddeo, Malou Castillejos, Edwin Uy, Michelle Lim, Tito Franco, Joel Pros, Joel Bautista, and R. B. Conanan with special guest designers: Ben Farrales, Pitoy Moreno, Joe Salazar, and Noli Hans.*
APRIL 8	10am - 8pm	Viewing of Exhibits/Hourly Raffle
	3pm	Bridal Fashion Parade
	5pm	Butterfly Release
	7pm	Fireworks Display

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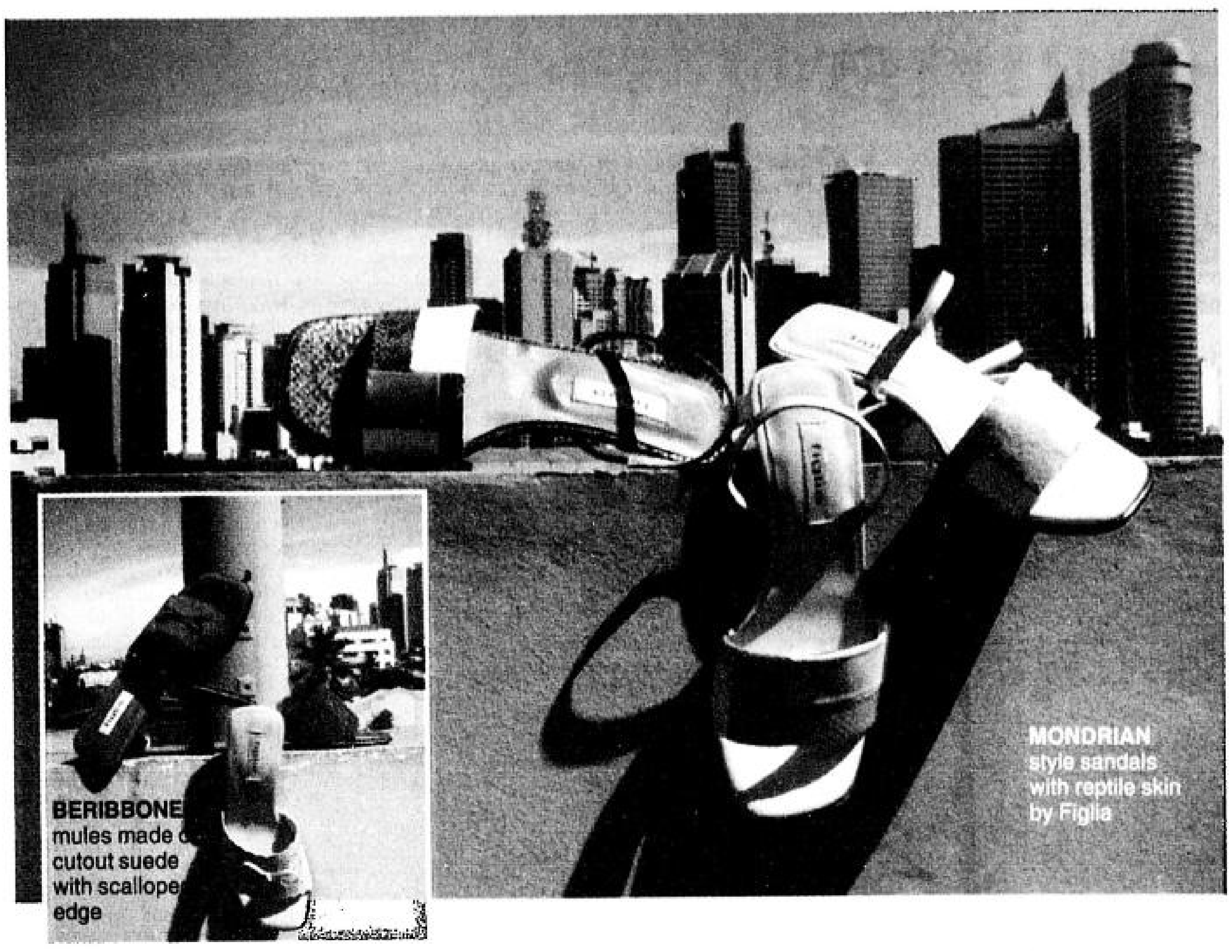
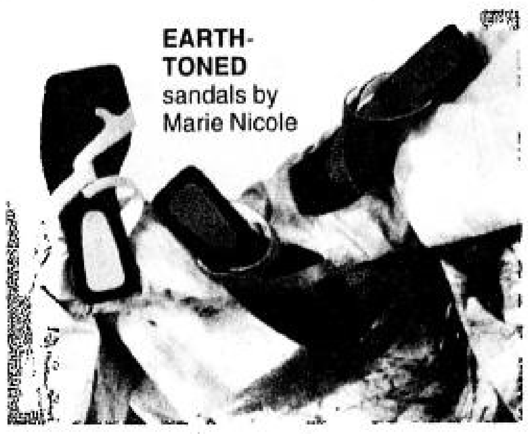


MONDRIAN style sandals with reptile skin by Figlia

BERIBBONED mules made of cutout suede with scalloped edge

Figlia and Marie Nicole fire up the feet fetish with sandals and slides that expose the naked toe



EARTH-TONED sandals by Marie Nicole

The toe as tantalizing taboo

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

AFTER SEASONS of masculine inspirations such as round toes, chunky heels and platforms, feminine styles are flooding the market. This summer, customers of Figlia and Marie Nicole are snapping up sandals and slides—anything that exposes their toes. The shoes come in colorful combinations such as fuchsia, purple and apple green. Ribbons, bows and frills are the favored adornments. Beiges and browns are popular as they complement the military look.

Jose V. Enriquez, vice president of Charter Int'l., the company that handles these two brands, says they are selling a lot of sexy high-heeled shoes. The popular styles reveal the clefts of the toes. You'll see more of those clefts next season as the forecast will be pointed shoes, low vamps and geometric and conical heels.

Asked how sales of Figlia and Marie Nicole have been doing, Enriquez exclaims, "Great!" These two brands, which cater to young professionals, have been posting double-digit growth despite the jittery economy and political situation early this year. In March sales were even better, and he expects the sales to go steady in June. He attributes the growth to the malls, the price range (P800 to P2,000), and the brand recognition.

The business has also taught the company not to be too ahead of the times. Enriquez recalls how they immediately adopted the platform trend when the market wasn't ready. By the time their competitors were coming out with platforms, their styles were on sale. With the wedge shoe being touted as the next big thing, the company is putting it out when the time is right.

The leathers are sourced from Italy and India. The components come from China, which has become famous for quick product development. Unlike a popular brand that gets all its styles from China and retags them, Enriquez says Figlia and Marie Nicole are proudly made in the Philippines.

T-STRAPPED sandals with flowerets by Marie Nicole

DELICATE straps by Figlia

SLIDES in pastel colors by Marie Nicole

Cultural Center of the Philippines
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Cecile Licad
World-Renowned Filipino pianist
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The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra
UNDER THE BATON OF
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Rachmaninoff
Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, op.18-

"Not surprisingly, she had the notes in her agile fingers, but she had something more, which the audience responded to with a shouting ovation...Miss Licad came across as an appealing combination of fragile grace and fiery power, either of which she could call on when the music required."
– The New York Times (New York Philharmonic/Zubin Mehta)

"She approached it [Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2] with deliberate tempos, warming the lyrical currents but never swooning over them, and applying exceptionally lucid fingers to its lush melodic substance."
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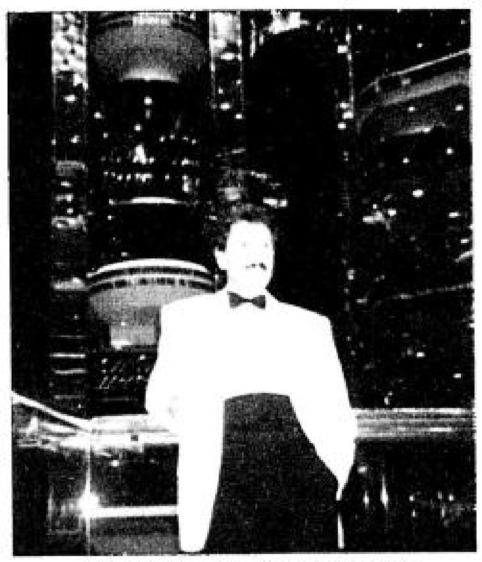
Travel Notebook

by Maurice Arcache

The best way to pay the world over



Moi cruising my way to Miami, Florida.

Let me cut right to the chase, *palanggas*. The best way to pay the world over is with plastic - that's a credit card for chic jet-setting sophisticates like you and *moi, dahlings*.

Of course, you already know that, don't you *palanggas*? You may also already know that not all credit cards were created equal. Trust me, I know. I carried all sorts for the longest time and believe *moi, dahlings*, some credit cards are better left at home.

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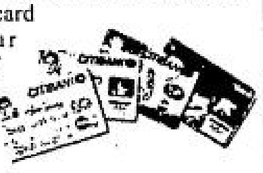
Travel protection is another plus with Citibank cards. Use it to pay for your travel expenses and you are automatically covered for accident, inconvenience, even your purchases are covered. Heaven forbid you should meet an accident, *palangga*, Citibank's Travel Accident Protection has you covered up to a cool P10 million. The Travel Inconvenience Protection, meanwhile, entitles you to reimbursements up to P42,000 for lost or delayed luggage and cancelled flights. As for your shopping, purchases are protected from loss or damage for 30 days while outside your residence.

This summer, your Citibank card is also your key to a world of great travel savings - a world of zero surcharges on card payments and double rewards points, if you go to the 13 travel agencies that have teamed up with Citibank. Interest rates on installment payments are dramatically reduced under a special plan called PayLite, where there's enough cash to shop for *pasalubong* for everyone under an excellent Fly Now, Pay Later scheme. Gold cardholders, meanwhile, get exclusives such as free access to Northwest Airlines airport lounges in 22 locations all over the world plus double rewards points on overseas transactions. Whew!

This *tres* splendid Travel Promotion only runs until July 31 so hurry and visit the travel agencies or call CitiPhone at 995-9999 today.

All these, *dahlings*, make Citibank credit cards the only ones worth stuffing in your wallet. If you don't own one yet, I would suggest, *palangga*, immediately call 24-Hour CitiPhone and get a fabulous Citibank card *pronto*! It's your passport to a world of marvelous travels and grand vacations all-year round. *Bon voyage, dahlings!*



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4. A guest can only win once. In case a name is drawn more than once, the prize with the higher value is given. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
5. Winners will be notified via phone & registered mail. Raffle prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Winners can claim their prize at the Head Office of RoastersPhils., Inc., 6/F Singapore Airlines Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or at the Kenny Rogers Roasters store closest to the address given by winner in the raffle coupon.
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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0602, SERIES OF 2001

Origins of well-being

TO BRAND-SAVVY Filipinos, the opening of Origins in Rustan's Makati is news. You'll be very surprised at the upscale Filipino consumer. Amid the fluctuating exchange rate, political instability, drugs and kidnapping, luxurious products ranging from skin-care to shoes to Mercedes Benz have been thriving. There's certainly truth to the adage that when the going gets tough, the tough go shopping.

The tough ones need to de-stress. This is why Estée Lauder's alternative personal care line that promotes well-being has been growing for the past 11 years. Covered with bleached wood, with items displayed in bays and barrels, Origins' 60-sq-m space in Rustan's takes after a general store.

Origins' popularity could be attributed to the vogue for the therapeutic potentials of essential oils from aromatic flowers and herbs. The scents from these oils exalt the spirits, improve the moods and produce other psychological benefits such as stress reduction and sleep enhancement.

Many raw materials are derived from natural sources such as flowers, herbs, spices, citrus fruits, roots and grains. The desired materials are then isolated from the plant using special technology. These ingredients are enhanced by manufactured materials, which may duplicate natural elements, which can't be gained in large quantities.

One of the vital ingredients in Origins is peppermint that evokes its distinctively sweet, menthol aroma. Menthol, a constituent of peppermint, elicits a physical reaction when inhaled or applied to the skin. It causes a striking sensation of coolness, which the body reacts to quite resolutely, producing its own "warming effect" as the blood circulates in the area of application. Because peppermint is both invigorating and soothing, the body and mind seem to benefit from it.

From a health viewpoint, peppermint has been known as an herbal heal-all for minor ailments. It's been known to relieve fatigue; it can either be a calmative, a stimulant, nervine or analgesic.

Because the products are meant for your comfort, Origins' selling ambience is also geared at making the customer feel at ease. The store staffers guide the customer through the bays of skin-care, salts, hair-care, bath and body, foot, sensory therapy, fragrances, sleep-enhancement and baby-care products.

According to Sandro Raniolo, senior field director of sales and marketing in Asia-Pacific, sales in Asia have been experiencing double-digit growth due to more stores and the universal appeal of Origins. "It crosses cultures and it's gender neutral," he says.

Men can use all the products aside from the Blade Runner shaving cream and Fire Fighter for the after-shave burn.

Bestsellers

Retail manager Sulin Yap points out the most popular products.

Peace Of Mind On The Spot Relief. (P600) If you're feeling uptight, this sensory product eases tension around the neck and shoulders. The mint, eucaplyptus and basil evoke this tingling sensation, and bring back to the body its natural warmth and glow

Night-a-Mins. (P1,710) This is an evening moisturizer that nourishes your skin while you're asleep. It contains valerian, an essence also found in tranquilizers, and other calming oils from oat, vanilla and neroli. It contains micronutrients that help in cell metabolism, elixirs to boost the skin elasticity and antioxidants to protect the skin.

Never A Dull Moment. (P1,350) This exfoliant is made of fruit extracts that bring life to dull skin. The papaya enzymes dissolve dead skin cells. The nuts and fruit seeds act as polishers.

Salt Rub. (P1, 710) Originally a spa product, this smoothing body scrub turns scaly skin into a velvety texture as the sea salts are filled with emollients from nut and bean oils.

Clear Improvement. (P1,050) This charcoal mask contains china clay that removes toxins and lecithin that nurtures the skin.

Spot Remover. (P600) From the specialist range, magazines tout it as one of the most effective products to dry up zits.

Personal choices

The principals let the press sample the complete product range. We recommend:

All the toners. They refine the texture of the skin, not strip the oils.

The grooming mists. The hair-care products smell like fruits, not alcohol. They keep the hair in place without the stiff or sticky feeling.

Birthday Suit. (P900) Instead of a greasy baby oil, use this body spray to address dryness and flakiness. If you don't want to use stockings, spray this on your legs for silky texture.

Have Nice Day. (P1,710) It's a great perker-upper because of citrus and mint oils. The moisturizer with sun protector does the double duty of nourishment and protection. The ginkgo extracts, licorice, birch and soybean keep the skin fibers from breaking down. Then the titanium dioxide shields the skin from the sun. Since it's a natural ingredient, it sits on the surface of the skin. It doesn't penetrate into deeper layers to clog the pores.

Lip Remedy. (P660) This is arguably the best lip balm for lipstick junkies. You can feel the emollients penetrate the dry lips. Next day, the cracks are gone and you've got lips soft enough to be kissed. Cover Your Mouth is a protector for the beach that defends the lips against burning, splitting and peeling.

Salt Butter. (P1,800) Impossibly dry skins become soft after soaking in a bath of Dead Sea salts, coconut and castor oil, peppermint, spearmint and orange.

Foot-care products. (P990) If your calf muscles are tight from walking or standing up all day, the Leg Lifts will loosen up the tense muscles. The Foot Soak removes the dirt from the cracks of your soles and the foot cream sloughs up the dead skin.

Sleep Collection. (P750-P1,350) Origins studied researches on sleep deprivation to develop this line. The range consists of digestive tea, sleep-enhancing baths and body care and a bedside inhaler called Resume the Position for those who wake up in the middle of the night and can't get back to sleep. The essential oils calm the mind, harmonize the psyche. Studies have shown that poor digestion leads to poor sleep. The herbs aid the digestive system and lower acidity. Valerian calms restlessness. Studies have shown that the taker wakes up feeling refreshed after taking this herb and essential oil. Sleeptime on-the-spot gel is a sleeping potion that that includes aromatic oils that travel through the recepters in your nose and pores of your skin. Float Away sleep-enhancing milk bath helps to lower the body temperature so you can sleep right away.

Marge C. Enriquez

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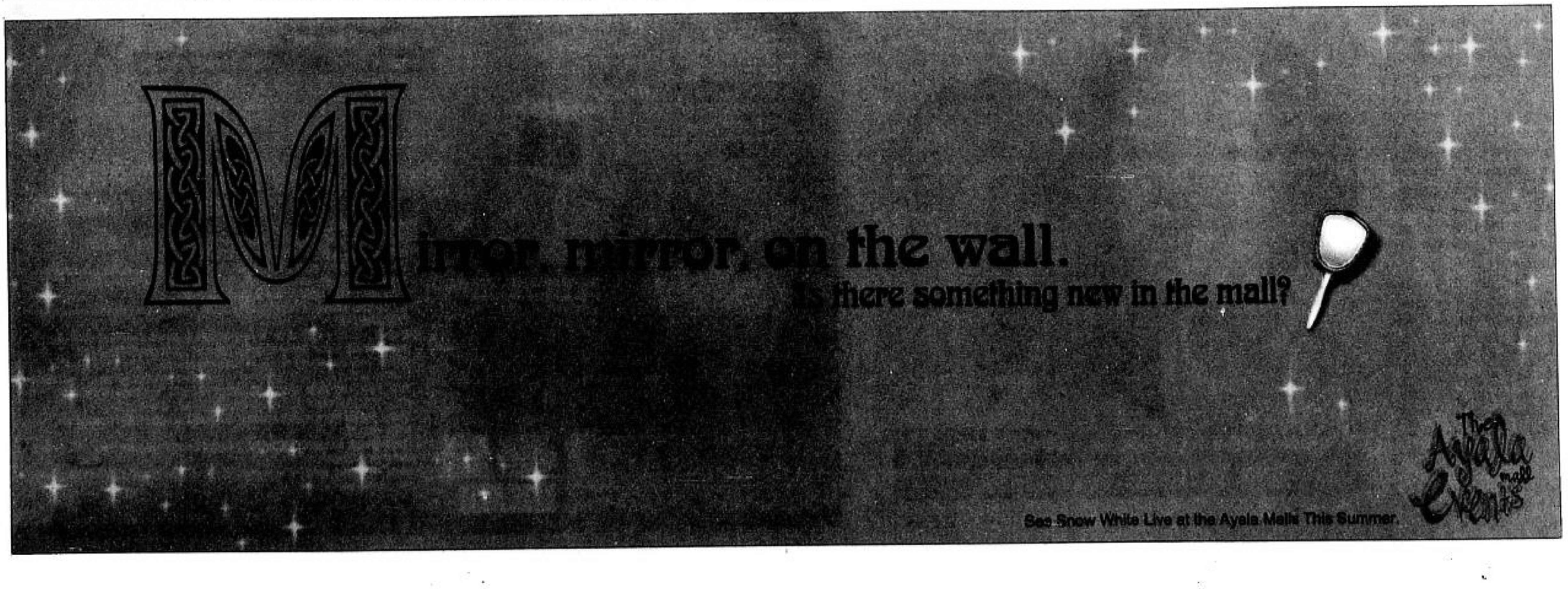
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